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SEGA®

THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG



**DARKEST
STORM**
PART 1 OF 3



SPAZ

THE DARKEST STORM

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Part One: THE GATHERING TEMPEST

I HAVE LEARNED
EVERYTHING ABOUT
SONIC THE
HEDGEHOG.

I HAVE KNOWN OF
EVERY BATTLE
AND VILLAIN HE
HAS FACED.

OF ALL HIS FOES,
HIS DEADLIEST
HAVE BEEN...

...DOCTOR IVO
"EGGMAN"
ROBOTNIK...

...IXIS
NAUGUS...

...AND
MAMMOTH
MOGUL.

...EACH A THREAT.
HOWEVER...

I AM THE NEW
FORCE THAT WILL
DISPOSE OF THEM
AND SONIC.

I AM CALLED
ANONYMOUS.

Special thanks to
DYNA LOPEZ and
ROBERT LEFFLER
at SEGA LICENSING.

I HAVE DECIDED
TO USE KNOT-
HOLE, HOME
TO SONIC.

A NEW AND
UNTESTED
KING SEEKS
TO REVIVE
THE OLD
WAYS...

...SO IN LIGHT OF
YOUR SERVICES TO
MY FATHER, I WOULD
GLADLY RETURN YOUR
KNIGHTHOOD.*

I APPRECIATE
IT, ELIAS... ER,
YOUR MAJESTY...
BUT I DON'T NEED
A TITLE TO KEEP
ME COOL.

COME
NOW,
SONIC.
KNIGHT-
HOOD IS A
PRESTIGIOUS
HONOR.

COOLER
THAN "HERO OF
EVERYTHING"?
NAA, UNCLE CHUCK,
IT'S COOL. BESIDES,
THERE'S ALREADY
A KNIGHT IN
THE FAMILY--
YOU!

*S# 78
AND
93.

THAT'S ONE REASON I
ASKED FOR YOU, SIR
CHARLES. IT'S ALSO WHY
I HOPED YOU WOULD
ACCEPT, SONIC.

EVEN DURING THE
GREAT WAR, MY
FATHER COULD RELY
ON HIS KNIGHTS AND
THE COURT OF
ACORN...

NOW I AM KING
AND MY PEOPLE ARE
STILL AT WAR WITH
DR. EGGMAN.

IF I AM GOING
TO LEAD US
TO PEACE, I NEED
SUPPORT. I NEED
A NEW COURT
OF ACORN.

STARTING WITH
ANYONE WHO
REMAINS FROM
THE OLD COURT.

PARDON ME,
BUT IS A YOUNG
MASTER PROWER
IN?

WHA--?
WHO'S LOOKING
FOR ME?

YOUR UNCLE,
CHOSEN ONE,
I AM *MERLIN*
PROWER.

R-REALLY?
ATHAIR TOLD
ME ABOUT
YOU*...BUT...
I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D
GET TO...
I'VE NEVER
HAD...

I KNOW, MILES.
I'M SORRY I'VE
BEEN KEPT AWAY
FROM YOU FOR
SO LONG.

*S#149.

I AM HERE NOW, THOUGH,
AND I PROMISE TO HELP
REBUILD OUR FAMILY.

I'M JUST HAPPY
TO FINALLY HAVE
SOMEBODY BACK!

I WISH WE HAD
MORE TIME, BUT
I'M AFRAID I
MUST SPEAK WITH
THE KING RIGHT
AWAY.

⇒ *SNIFF* ⇒ IT'S OKAY,
AS LONG AS YOU
PROMISE TO STAY.
WHAT DO YOU
NEED TO SEE
THE KING FOR?

HE HOLDS PART OF THE
KEY TO SAVING THE ANCIENT
WALKERS... AND TO KEEPING
HIM SAFELY TRAPPED.

MAMMOTH
*MOGUL!**

*S#150

AS THE
MOBIANS
TRY TO
REBUILD...

...DOCTOR
EGGMAN
QUICKLY
WORKS TO
DESTROY.

I HAVE AN UPDATE
FOR YOU, FATHER.

GIVE
DADDY
SOME
GOOD
NEWS,
A.D.A.M.!!

YOUR EGG GRAPES
ARE NEARLY COMPLETE.
SENSORS READ 99%
BIOFIELD-DELETION.

FANTASTIC!

FATHER?

YOU SEE, M, THIS MEANS
I CAN SOON MOVE ON
TO MY NEXT PHASE!

ONCE THE ERASURES ARE COMPLETE, I
WILL SYPHON POWER OUT OF THE *ZONE
OF SILENCE*, PURIFYING IT THROUGH
THE EGG GRAPES, GIVING ME THE RAW
ENERGY OF AN ENTIRE *DIMENSION*!

WHY
DRAIN
THE
MOBIANS?

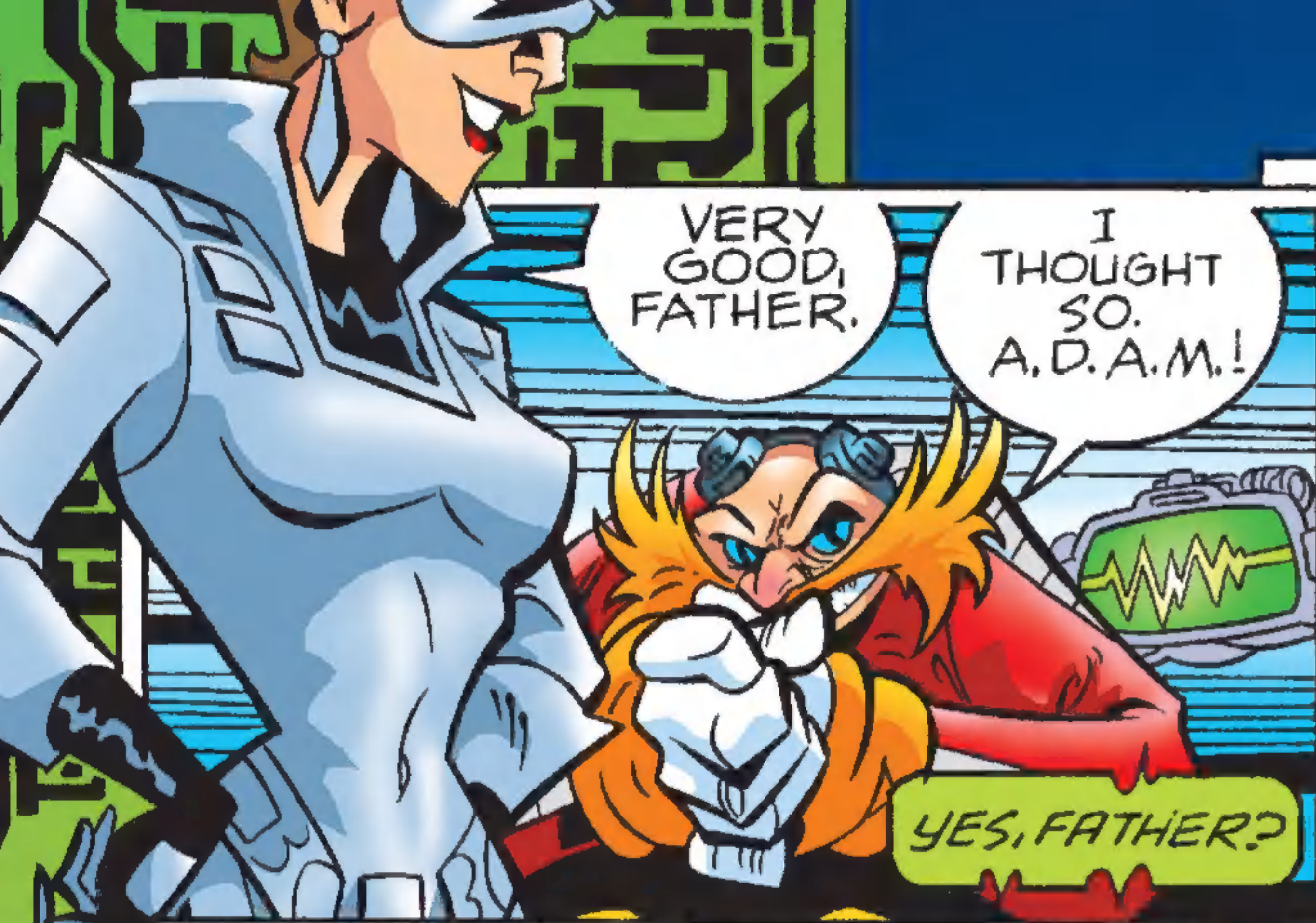
SO THAT THEIR EMPTY
HUSKS WILL ACT AS A
KIND OF FILTER!

IS THERE NOT
A MORE
EFFICIENT WAY?
CAN YOU NOT
REACH YOUR
VISION...

...IN A
QUICKER
WAY?

OH,
I'M
SURE
I CAN.

BUT WHERE
WOULD THE
FUN BE
IN THAT?



VERY GOOD, FATHER.

I THOUGHT SO. A.D.A.M.!

YES, FATHER?

TELL ME YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED THE INDIVIDUAL WHO CALLED HIMSELF "ANONYMOUS."

*

I AM AFRAID NOT, FATHER. I AM INDESCRIBABLY SORRY.

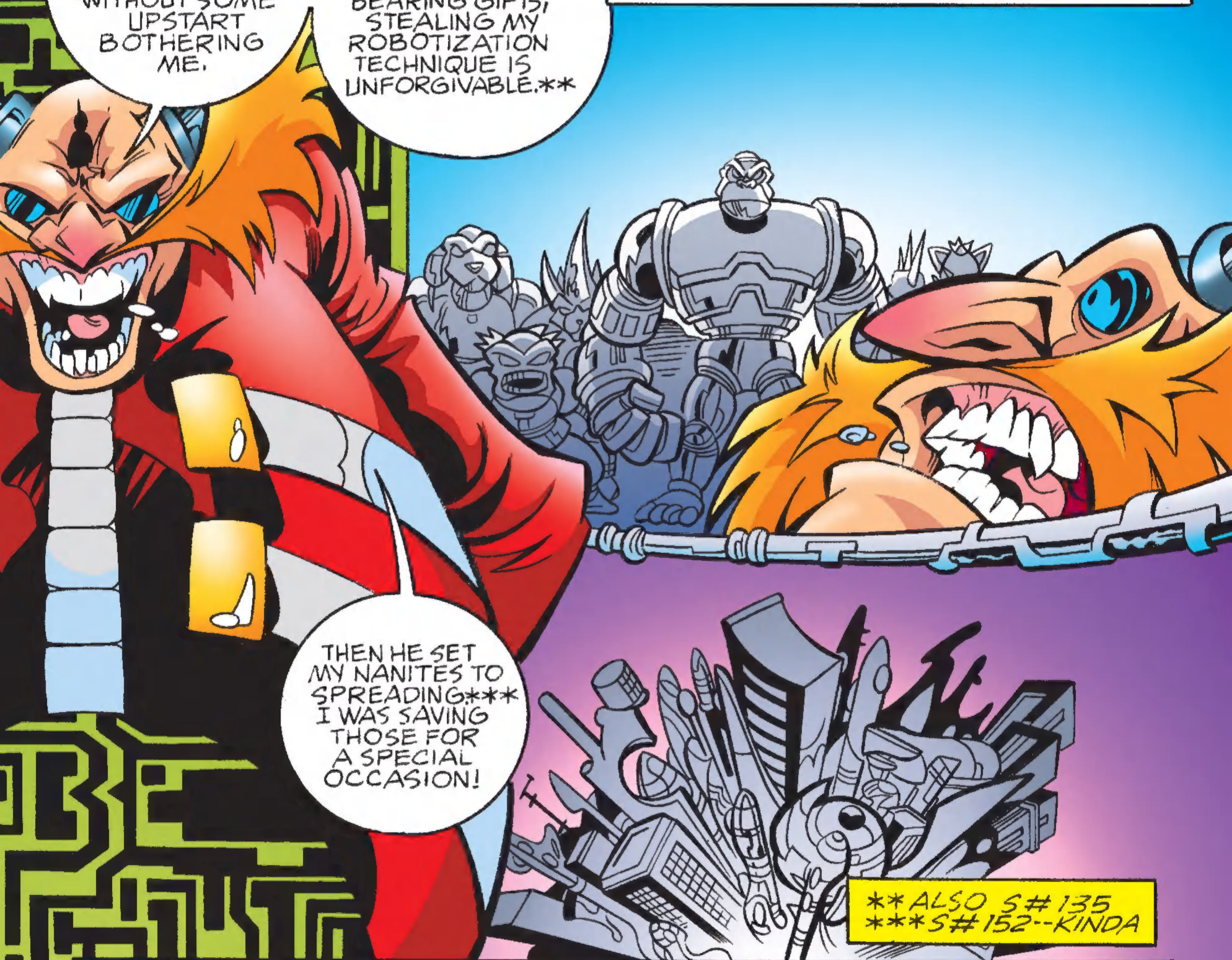
THEN RE-DOUBLE YOUR SEARCHING EFFORTS!

YES, FATHER.

*S# 135

I HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE FROM THAT HEDGEHOG WITHOUT SOME UPSTART BOTHERING ME.

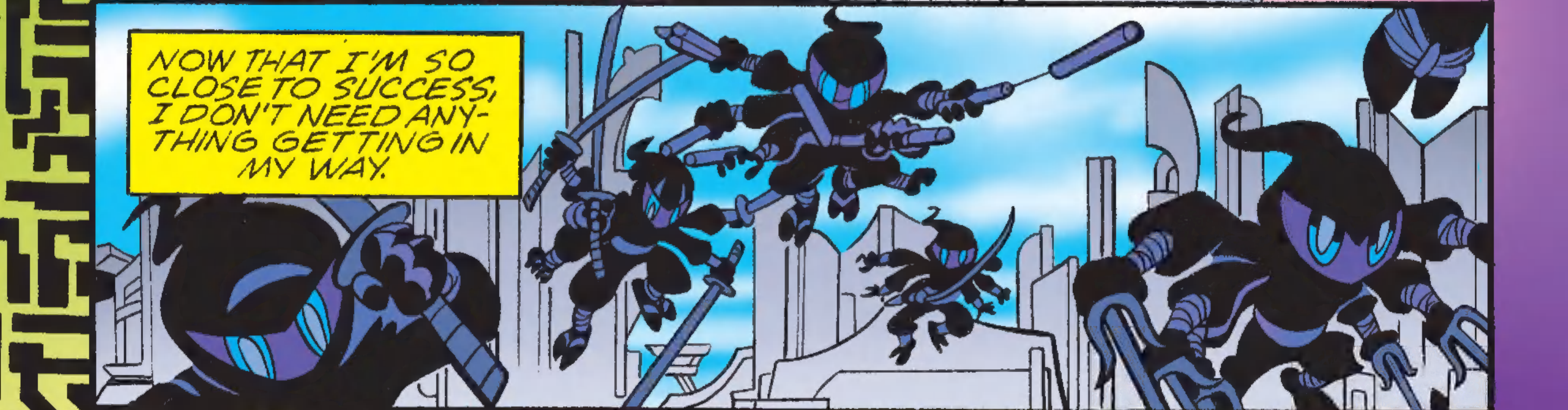
ALTHOUGH HE PRESENTED HIMSELF BEARING GIFTS, STEALING MY ROBOTIZATION TECHNIQUE IS UNFORGIVABLE.**



THEN HE SET MY NANITES TO SPREADING*** I WAS SAVING THOSE FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION!

** ALSO S# 135
*** S# 152--KINDA

NOW THAT I'M SO CLOSE TO SUCCESS, I DON'T NEED ANYTHING GETTING IN MY WAY.



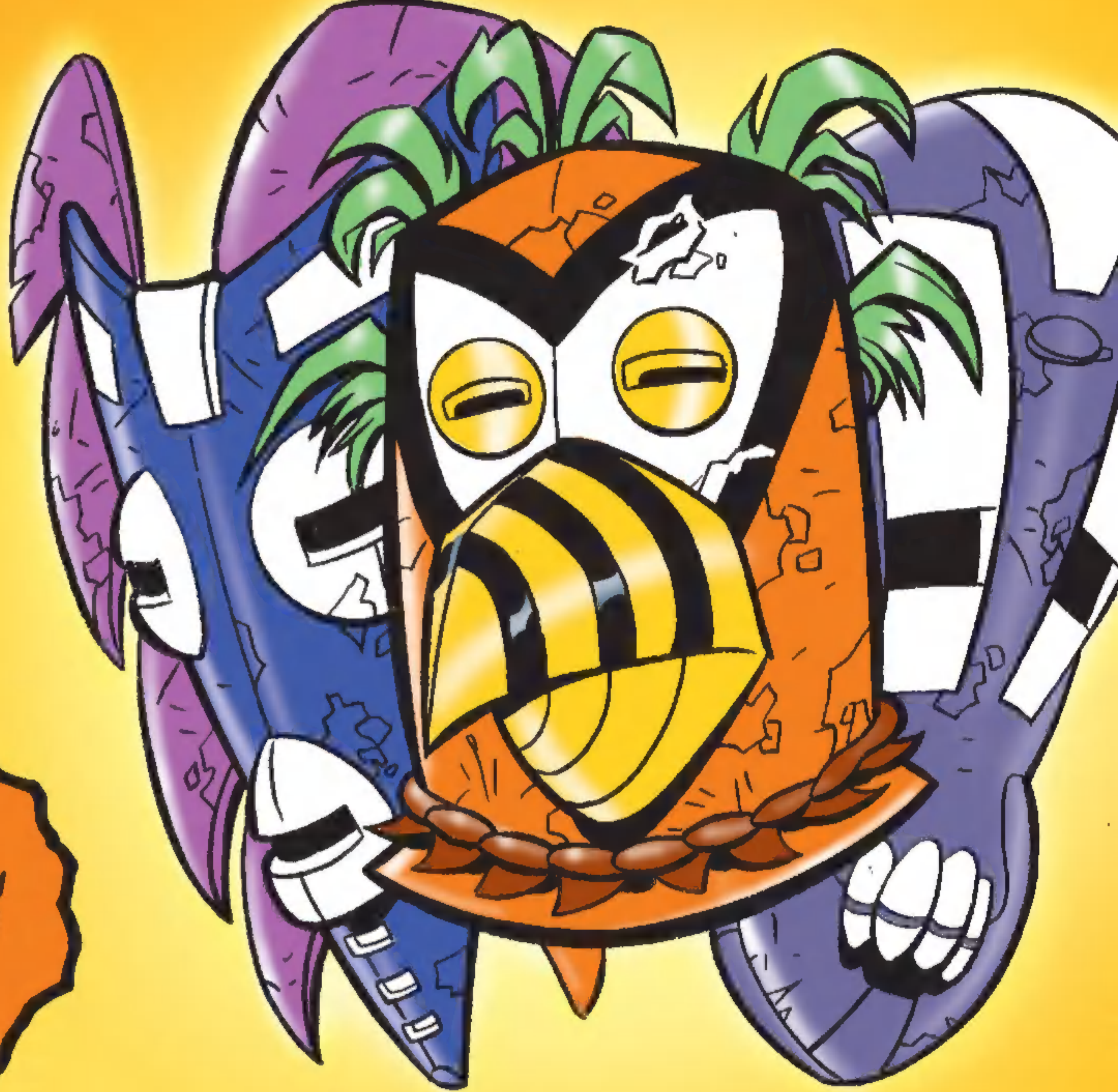
I HAVE HAD TO
TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT
DIVINE INTER-
VENTION.

HOWEVER,
THE GOD-LIKE
ANCIENT
WALKERS
ARE EASY ENOUGH
TO DEAL WITH.

MERLIN
PROWER
IS ON
HIS WAY.

PLEASE
HOLD ON
JUST A
LITTLE
LONGER.

OUR
PRESERVATION
IS NO LONGER
UNDER OUR
CONTROL.



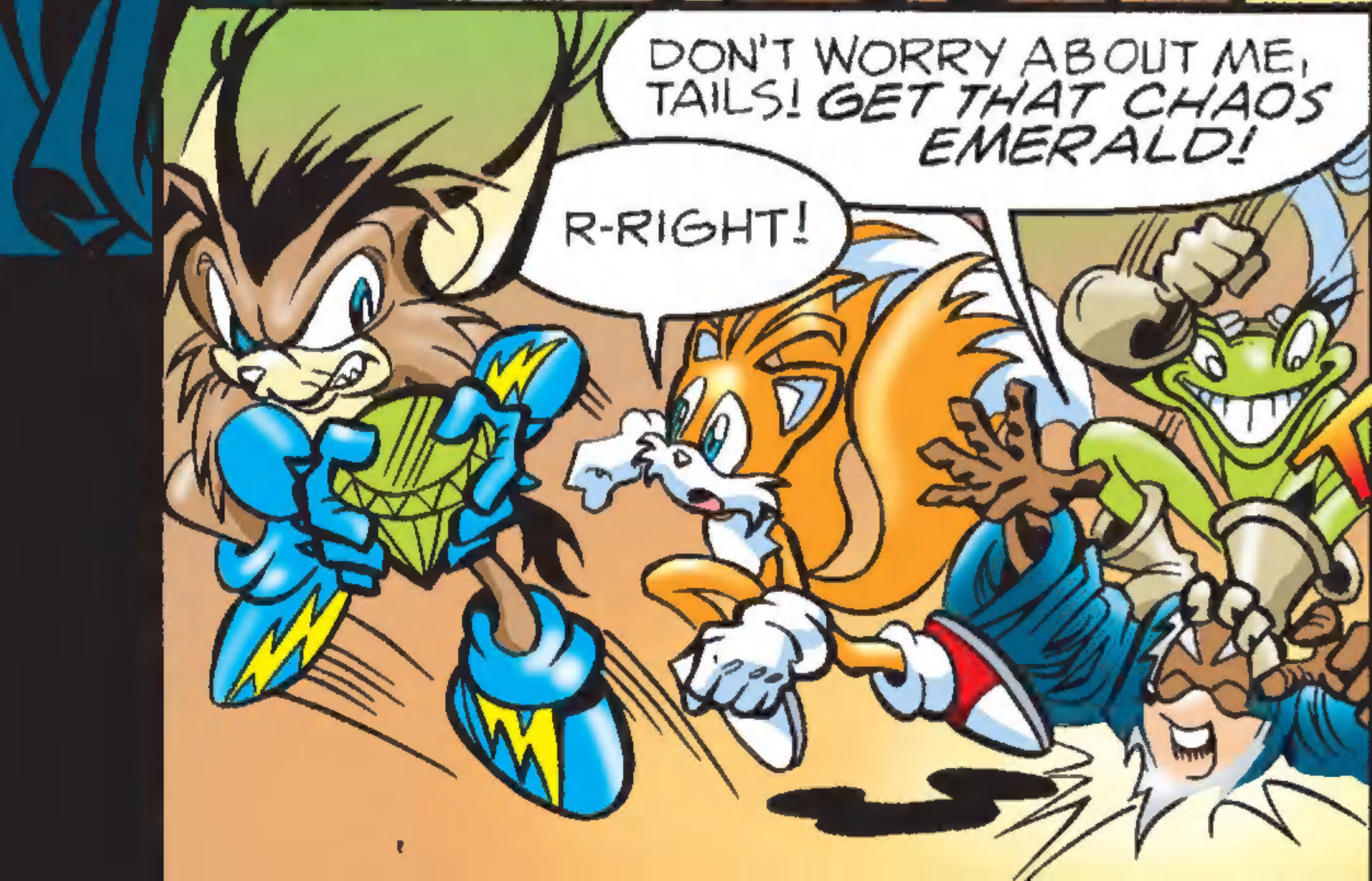
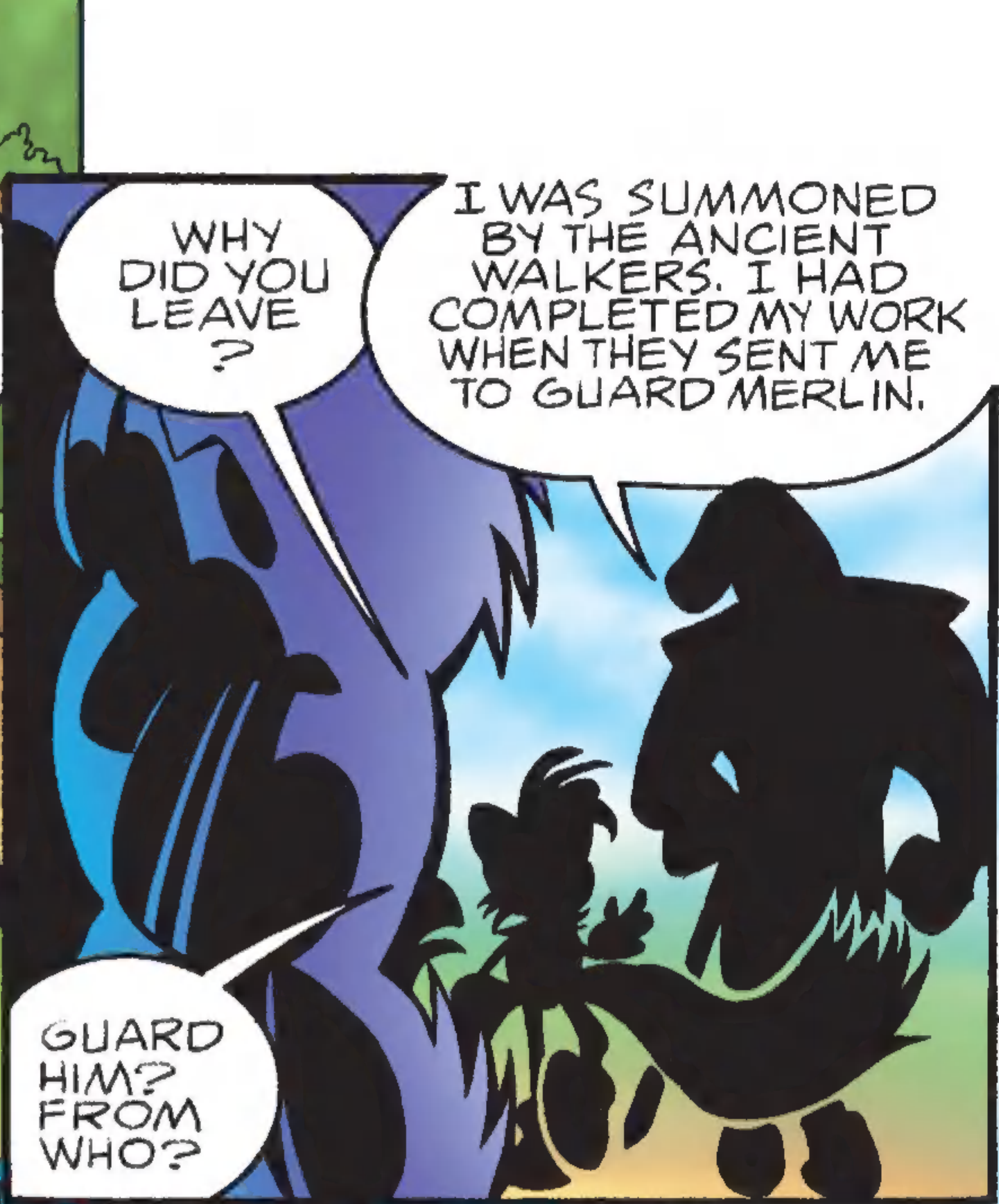
SINCE THE COMING
OF THE CHAOS EMERALDS, WE HAVE
WATCHED LIFE ON MOBIUS FLOURISH. WE HAVE
JUDICIOUSLY ACTED TO PRESERVE THE WORLD
FROM DARKNESS. FOR OUR DILIGENCE, WE HAVE
BEEN STRUCK A MORTAL BLOW. OUR POWER IS
FAILING.

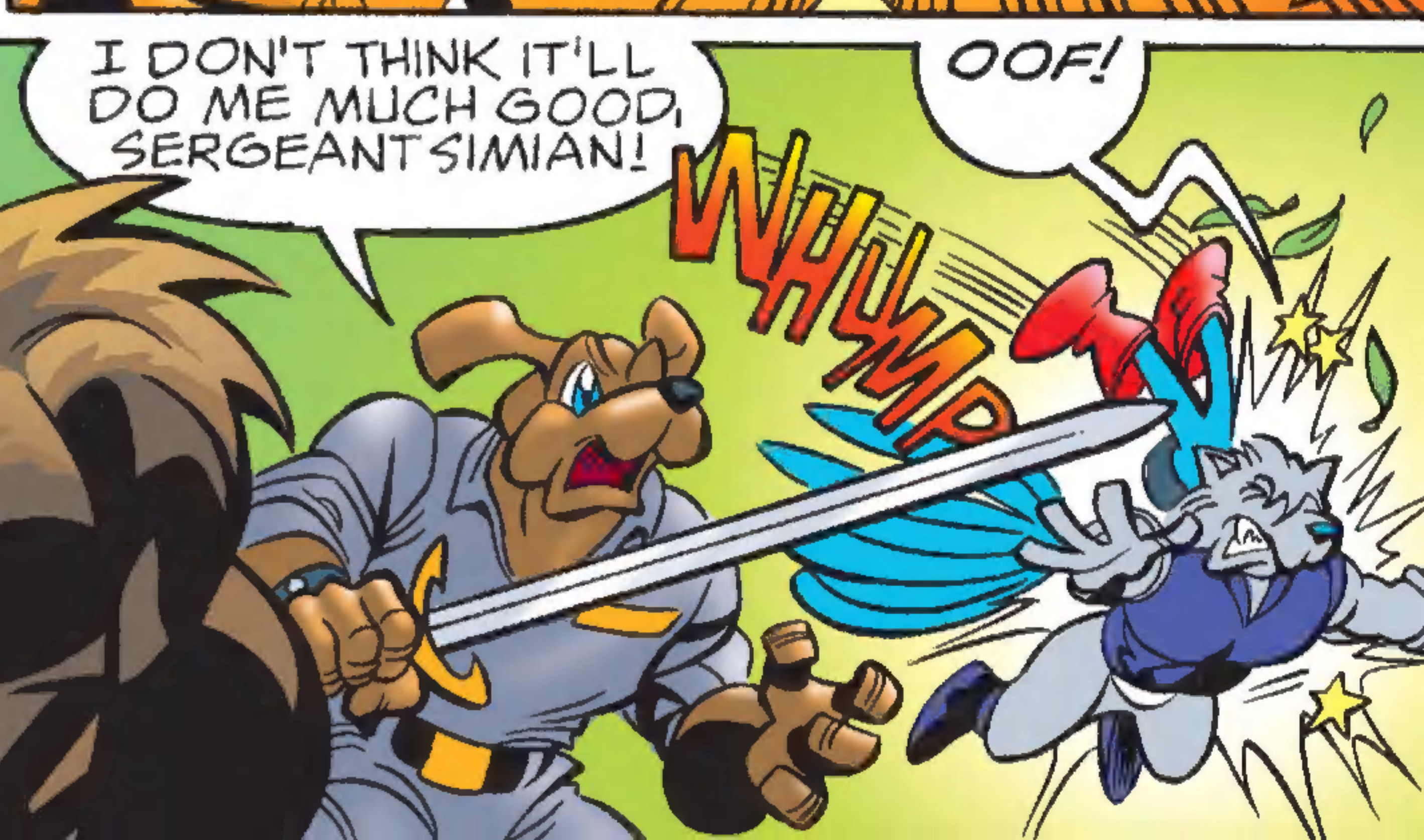
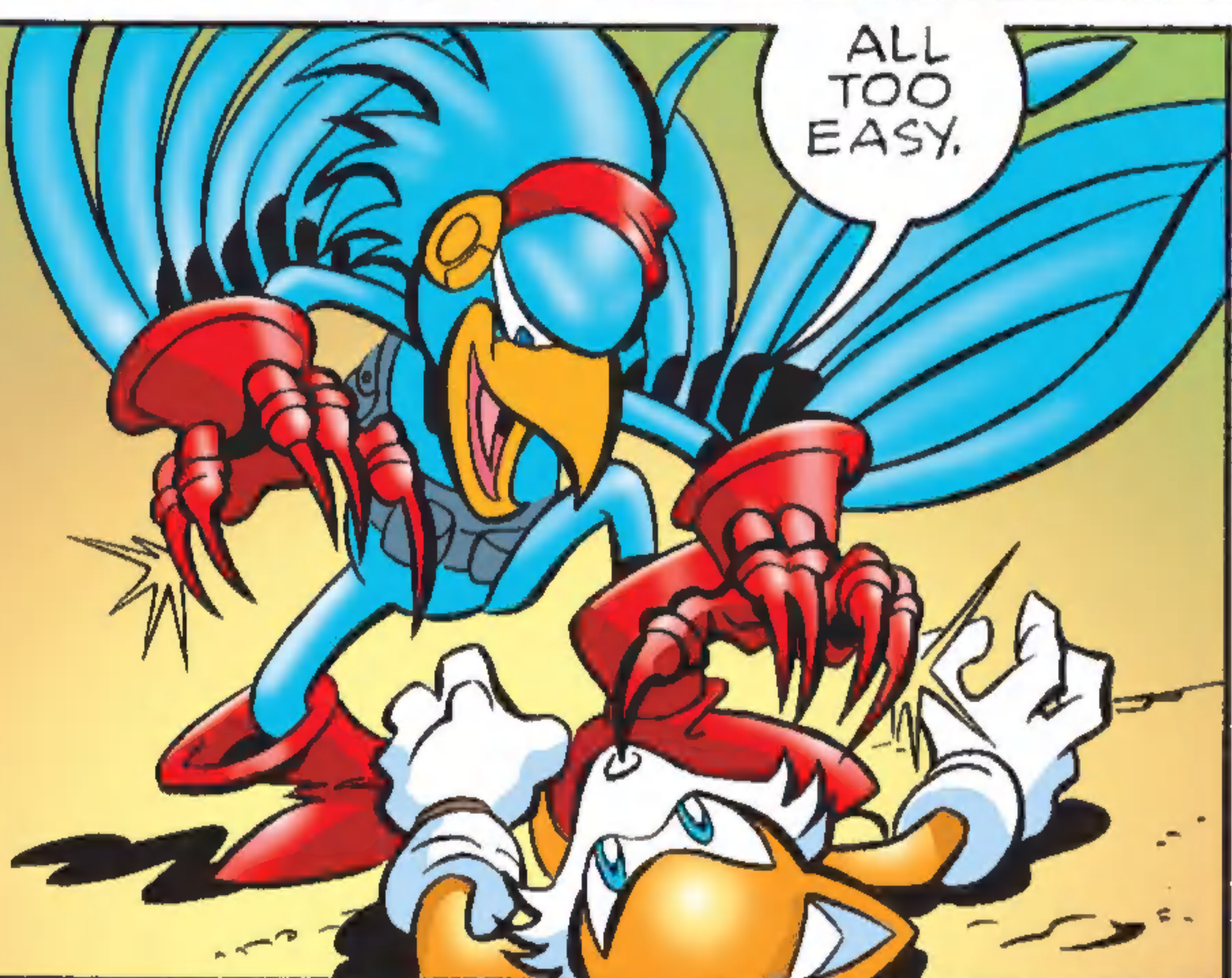
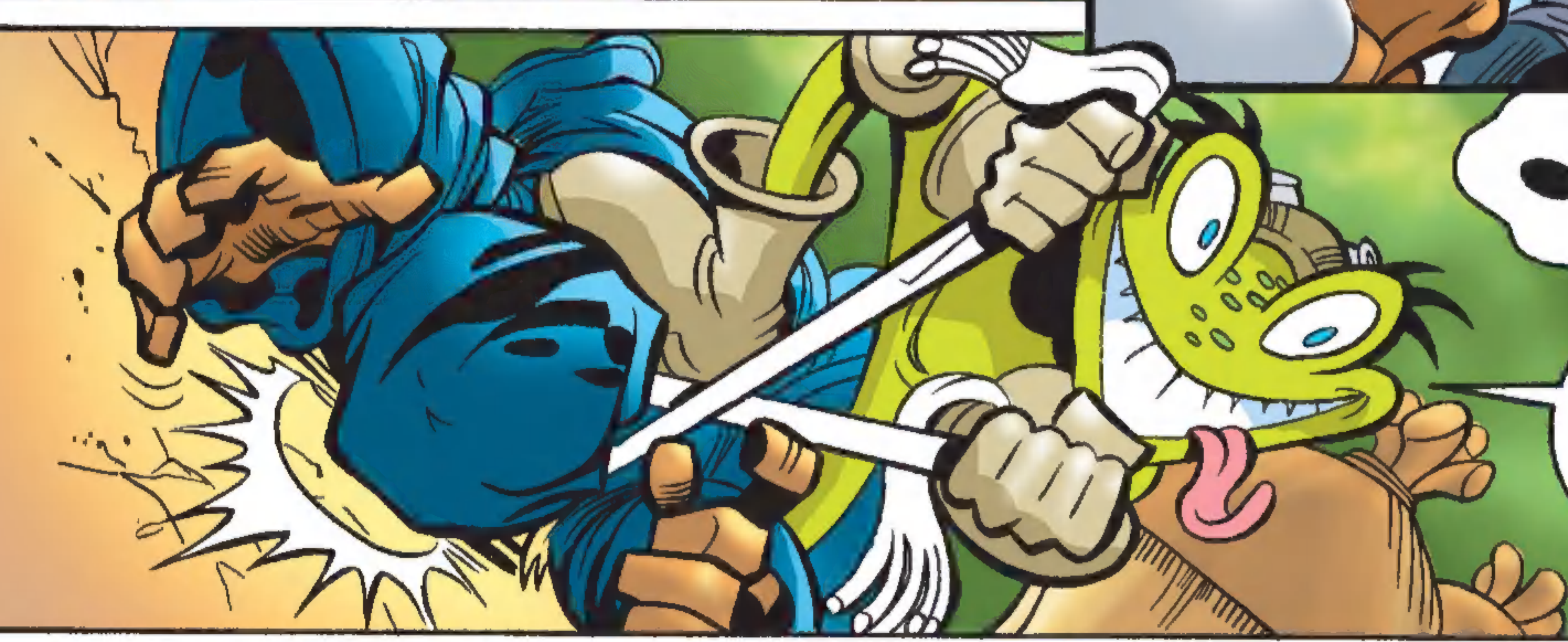
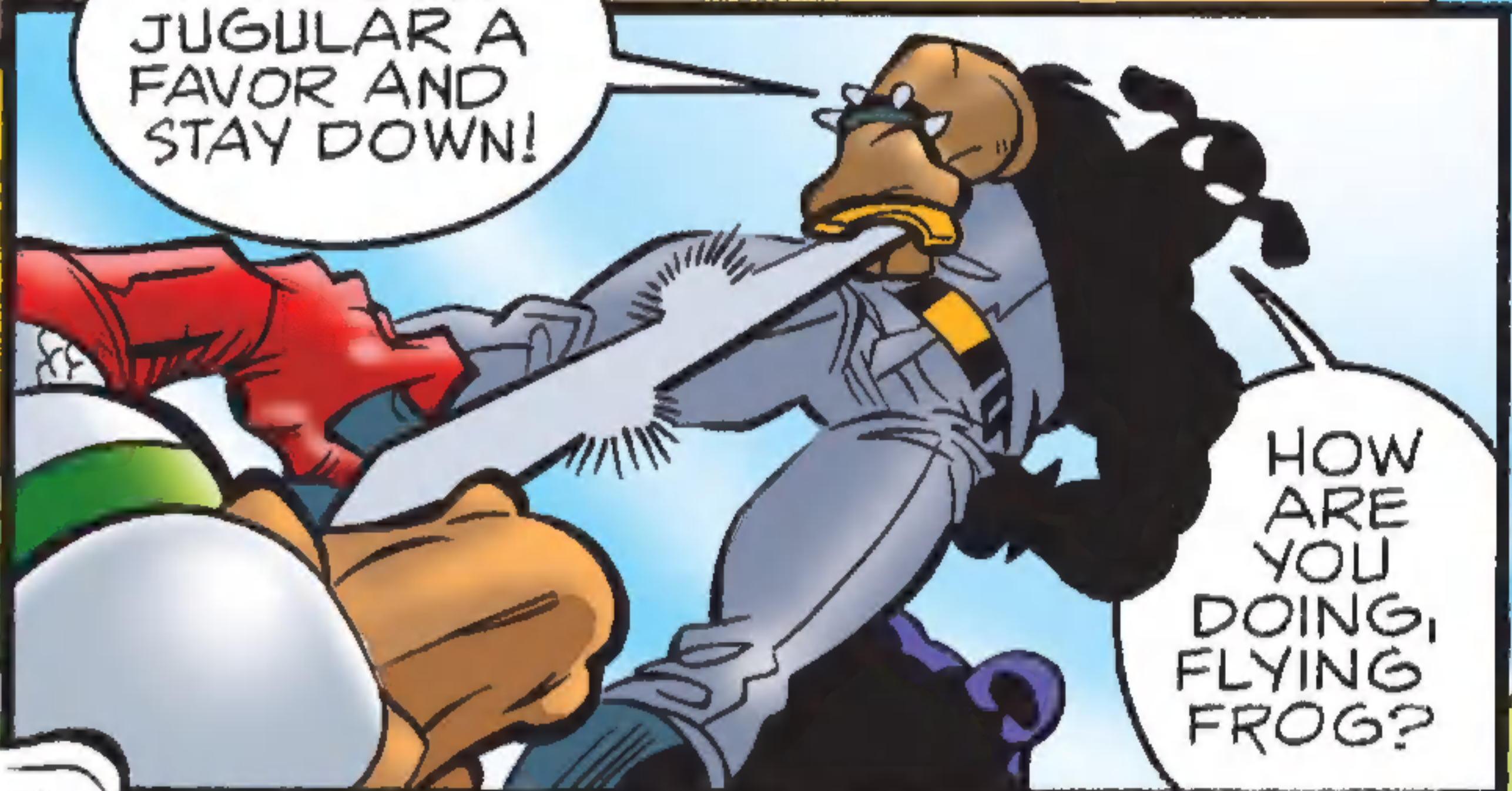
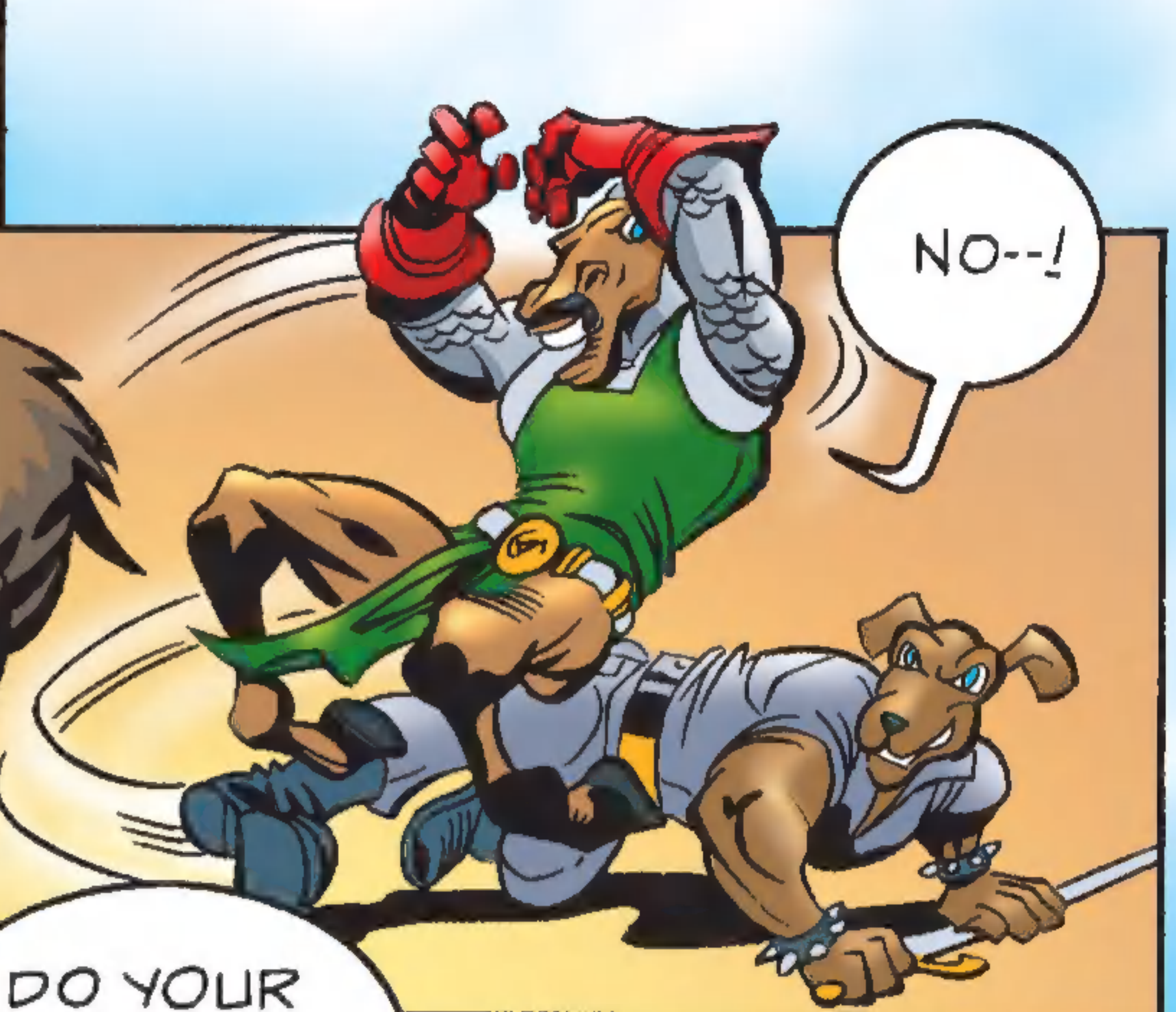
WE HAVE SELECTED YOU ... AURORA,
YOU ... ATHAIR, AND MERLIN PROWER
TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF THE
CHAOS FORCE AND TO PROTECT THE
WORLD IN OUR STEAD.
OUR GRIP ON LIFE IS SLIPPING. ANY
ONE EVENT COULD TAKE US AWAY.

WE
FORESEE
A GREAT
STORM
APPROACHING.

YOU
MUST BE
PREPARED.







A NEW KING,
OLD HEROES,
SAME FATE.

EACH UNAWARE
THAT THEIR
WORK WILL BE
FOR NAUGHT.

YOUR TIMING COULDN'T
BE BETTER! MERLIN
PROWER! SIR CONNERY!
PLEASE RISE AND TELL
ME WHAT HAS BROUGHT
YOU HOME.

I WAS CALLED FROM YOUR
FATHER'S SERVICE BY THE
ANCIENT WALKERS. THEY
GAVE ME THIS--THE SWORD
OF LIGHT--TO PURGE THE
WORLD OF DARK MAGIC.
WITH THAT DUTY FINISHED,
THEY CHARGED ME WITH
GUARDING MERLIN PROWER
AND HIS PRECIOUS
CAPTIVE.

CAPTIVE?

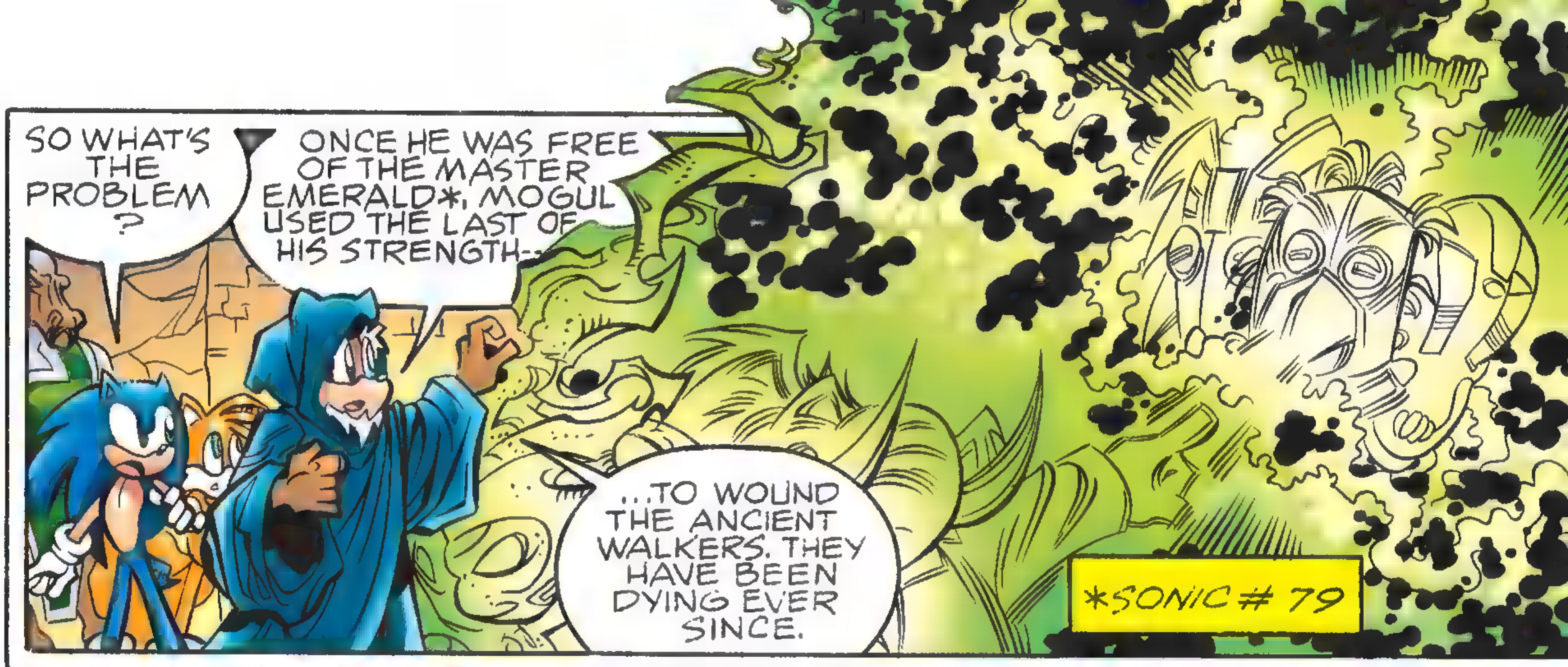
MAMMOTH MOGUL, MY
LORD--RECENTLY
DEFEATED AND TRAPPED
WITHIN HIS OWN CHAOS
EMERALD.* HE FELL
TO A TRAP SET BY THE
ANCIENT WALKERS
LONG AGO.

*S # 149

THOUSANDS OF
YEARS AGO, THE
ANCIENT WALKERS
FORESAW MOGUL TO
BE A THREAT. WHILE
THEY REFUSED TO
COMBAT DESTINY,
THEY DID CURSE
THE EMERALD THAT
MOGUL WAS FATED
TO OBTAIN.

MOGUL USED ITS
POWER, AND THE
CHAOS EMERALD
ALWAYS LED HIM TO
A KEY MISJUDGE-
MENT--UNTIL HE
WAS ULTIMATELY
TRAPPED
WITHIN.

SNKSH



SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

ONCE HE WAS FREE OF THE MASTER EMERALD*, MOGUL USED THE LAST OF HIS STRENGTH--

...TO WOUND THE ANCIENT WALKERS. THEY HAVE BEEN DYING EVER SINCE.

*SONIC # 79

IF THEY DIE, THEIR CHARM OVER THE EMERALD WILL BREAK, AND MOGUL WILL BE FREE.

THEN WHAT CAN WE DO?

SINCE YOU'VE COME TO ME, I'M GUESSING I CAN HELP SOMEHOW.

INDEED! YOUR CROWN AND ITS MATE--THE **SWORD OF ACORN**--ARE ESSENTIAL TO SAVING THE ANCIENT WALKERS.

THE CROWN? WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT IT AND THE SWORD?

I CAN ANSWER THAT FOR YOU, ELIAS.

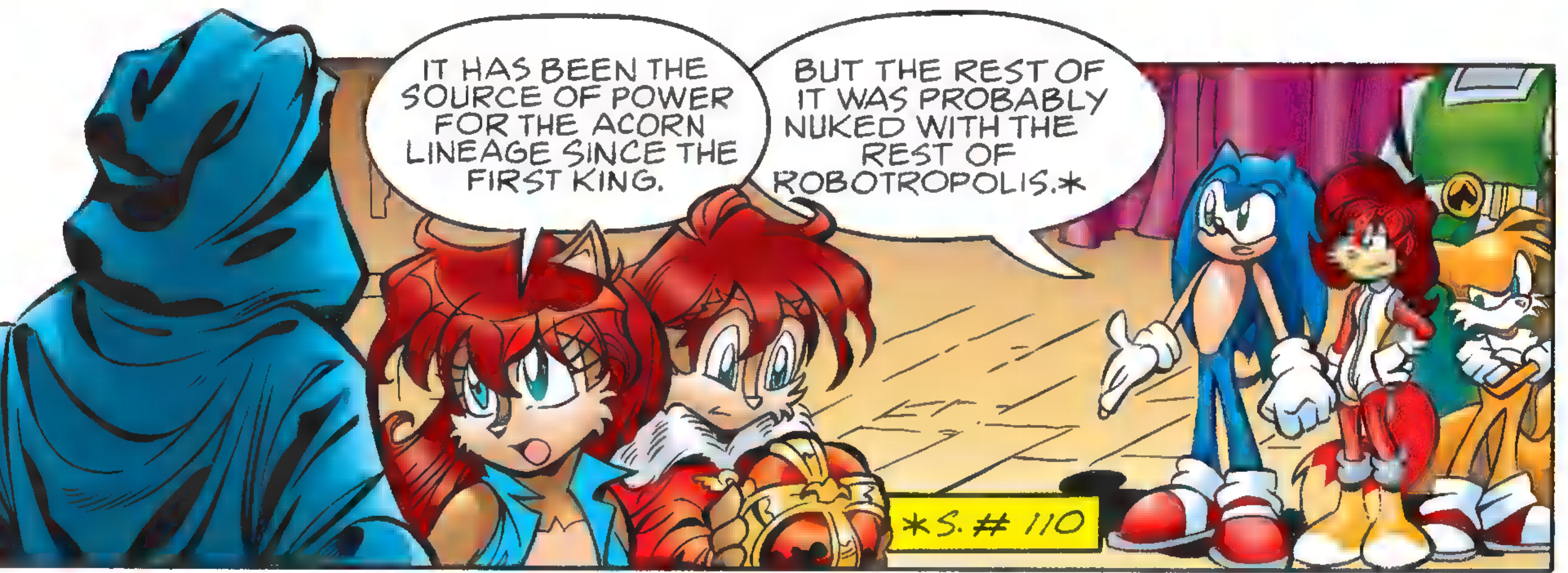


SALLY!

I DEALT WITH BOTH PERSONALLY, BROTHER.

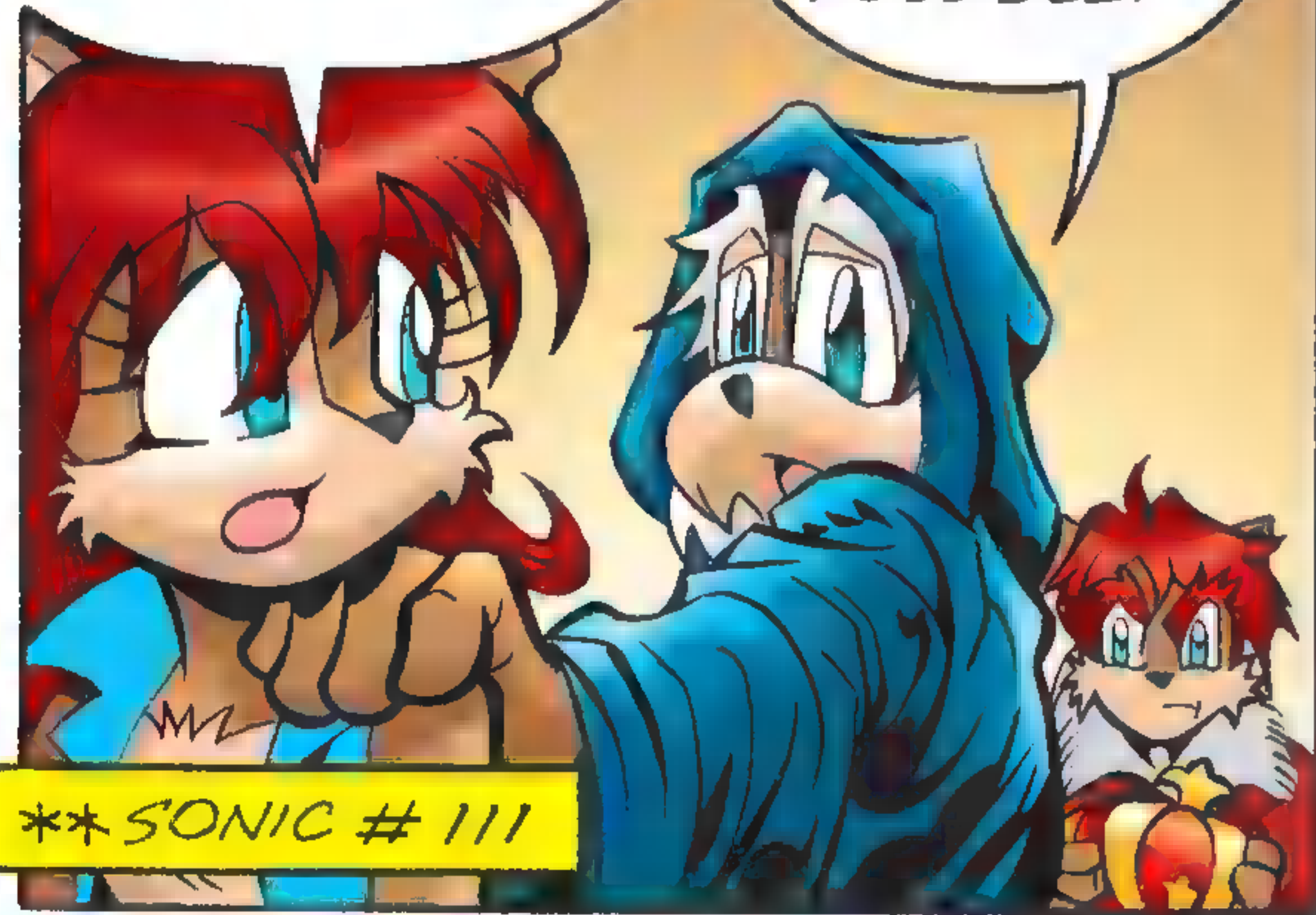
THEY WERE MADE FROM A PURE SAMPLE OF THE **SOURCE OF ALL**--THE SUBSTANCE THAT IS THE BASE MATERIAL FOR EVERYTHING. THEY CAN CHANNEL AND PRODUCE VAST AMOUNTS OF MAGICAL ENERGY.





I GAVE THE SWORD OF ACORNS TO THE ORPHANS OF UMA ARACHNIS WHEN IT SEEMED TO BE GROWING TOO... COMMANDING.**

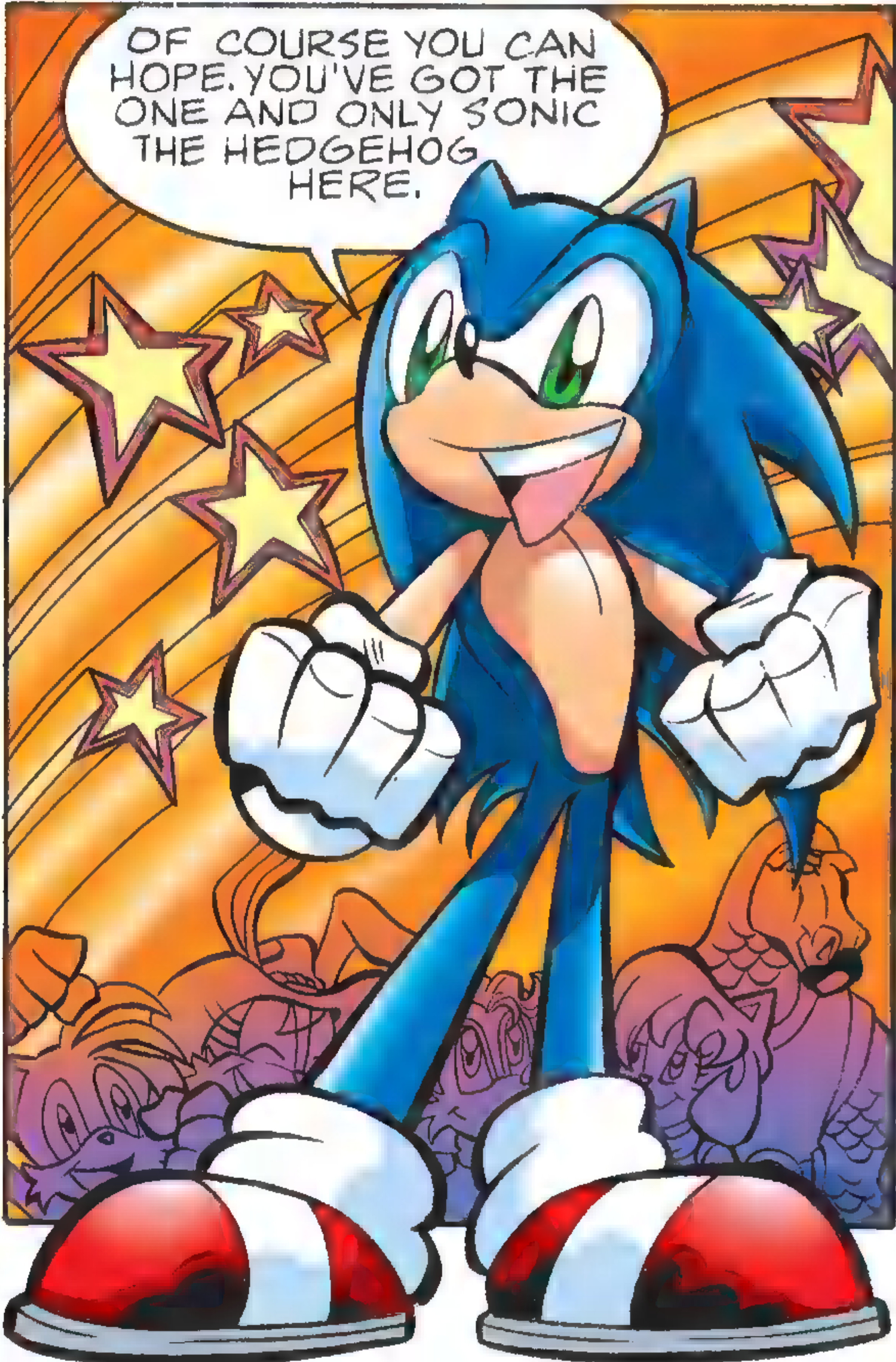
I WAS AFRAID THEY WOULD BE SEPARATED. WE MUST FIND THE SWORD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



YOU WON'T START YOUR SEARCH EMPTY-HANDED. I CAN GIVE THE CROWN OF ACORNS TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE FROM A FUTURE THREAT.



OF COURSE YOU CAN HOPE. YOU'VE GOT THE ONE AND ONLY SONIC THE HEDGEHOG HERE.



I HOPE THOSE CRAZY KIDS

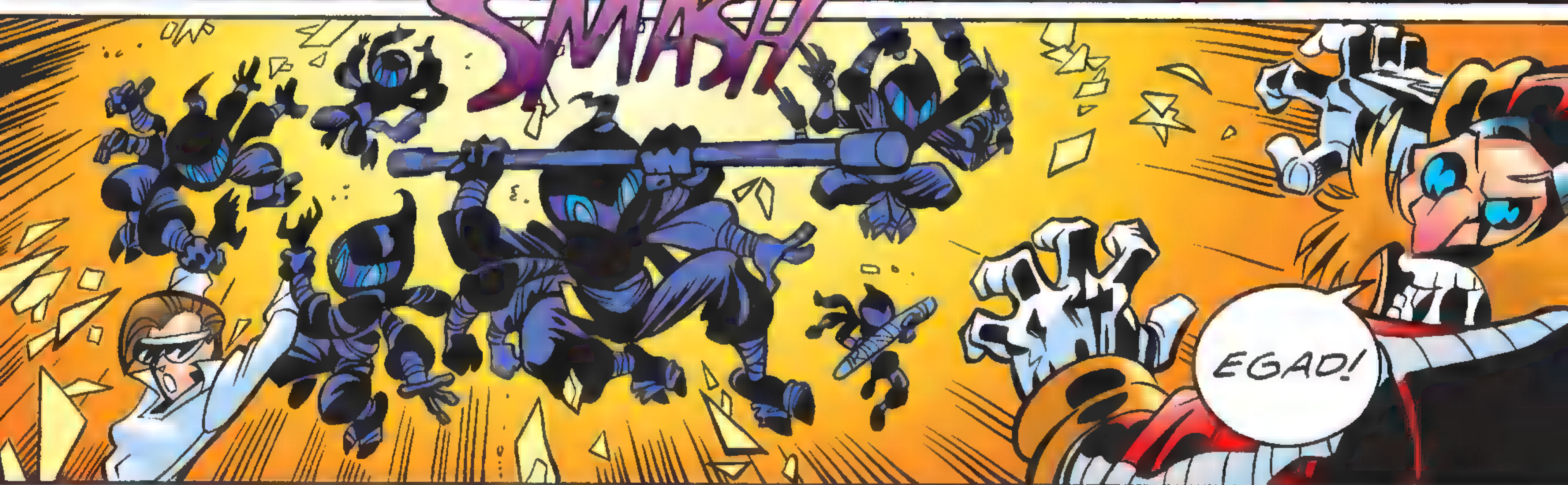




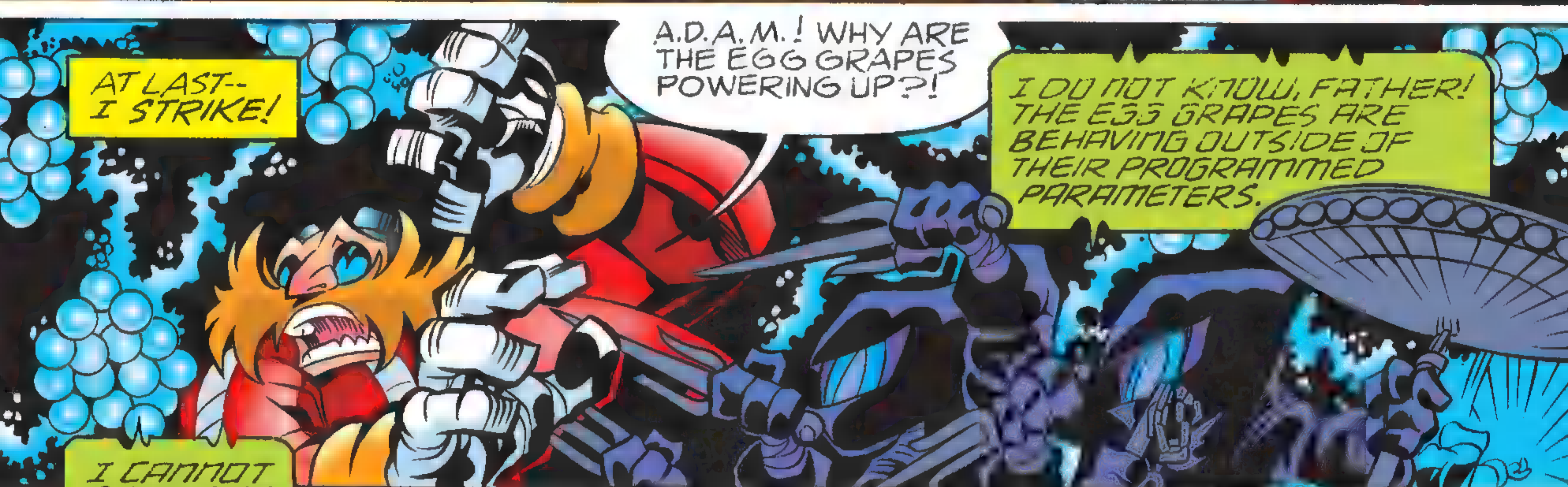
I TELL YA, KIDS,
I COULD LOOK AT
THESE HOPELESS
EXPRESSIONS
ALL DAY.

AH, HOW
BITTER-SWEET!
ONE TORTURE
ENDS WHERE
ANOTHER ONE
BEGI--

BIOFIELD-DELETION
COMPLETE, FATHER.



EGAD!



AT LAST--
I STRIKE!

A.D.A.M.! WHY ARE
THE EGG GRAPES
POWERING UP?!

I DO NOT KNOW, FATHER!
THE EGG GRAPES ARE
BEHAVING OUTSIDE OF
THEIR PROGRAMMED
PARAMETERS.

I CANNOT
STOP THE
PROCESS.



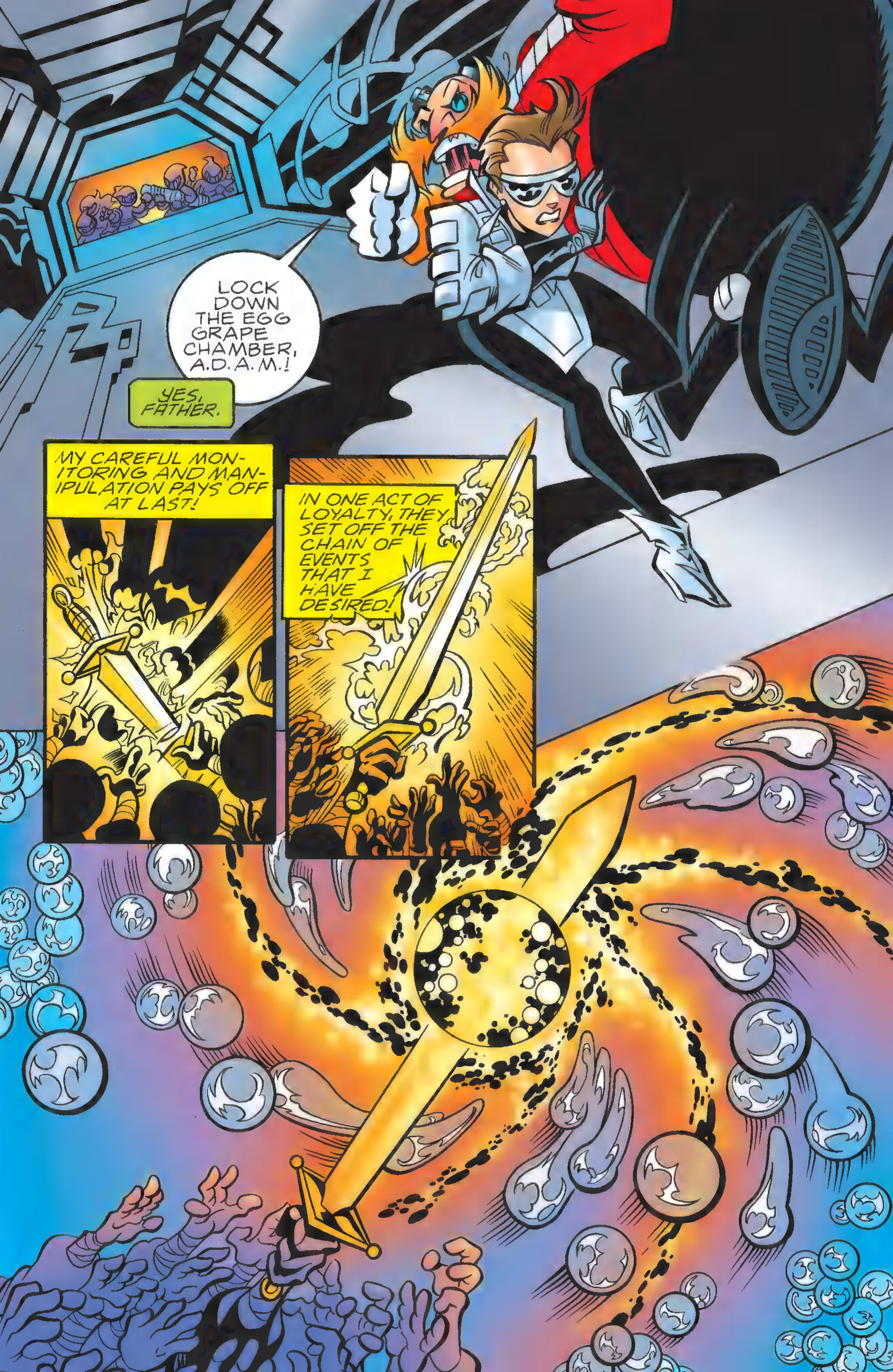
M! STOP
PLAYING AROUND
AND GET DADDY
TO SAFETY!

YES,
FATHER!



AHH!
CAREFUL,
MECHA!

ZKAT!



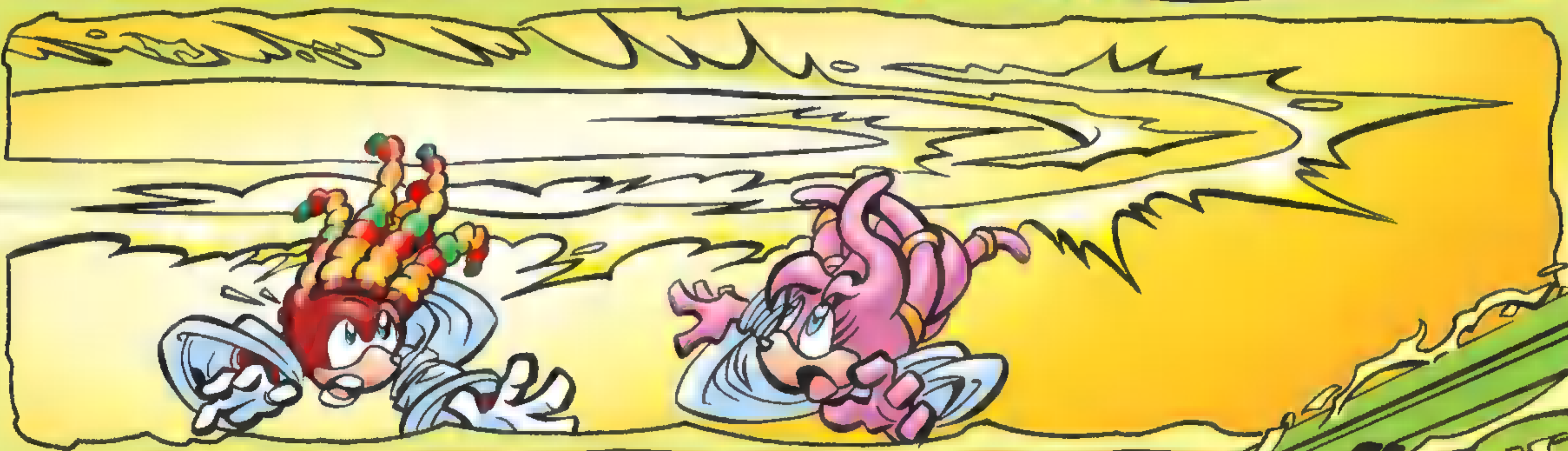
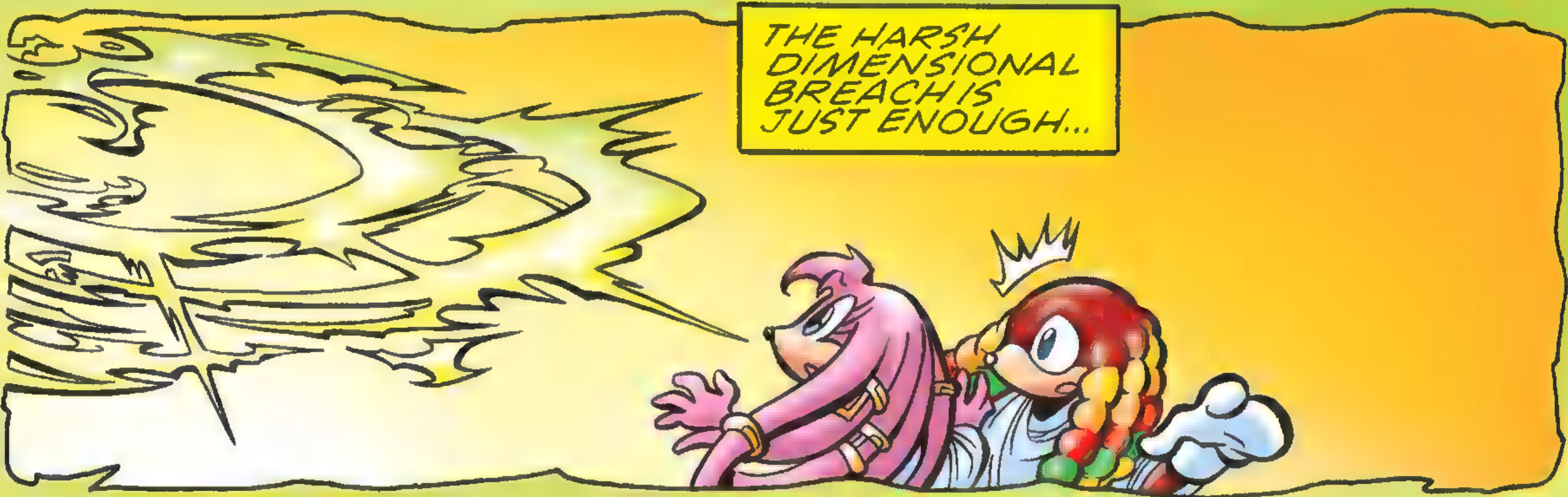
LOCK
DOWN
THE EGG
GRAPE
CHAMBER,
A.D.A.M.!

YES,
FATHER.

MY CAREFUL MON-
ITORING AND MAN-
IPULATION PAYS OFF
AT LAST!

IN ONE ACT OF
LOYALTY, THEY
SET OFF THE
CHAIN OF
EVENTS
THAT I
HAVE
DESIRED!

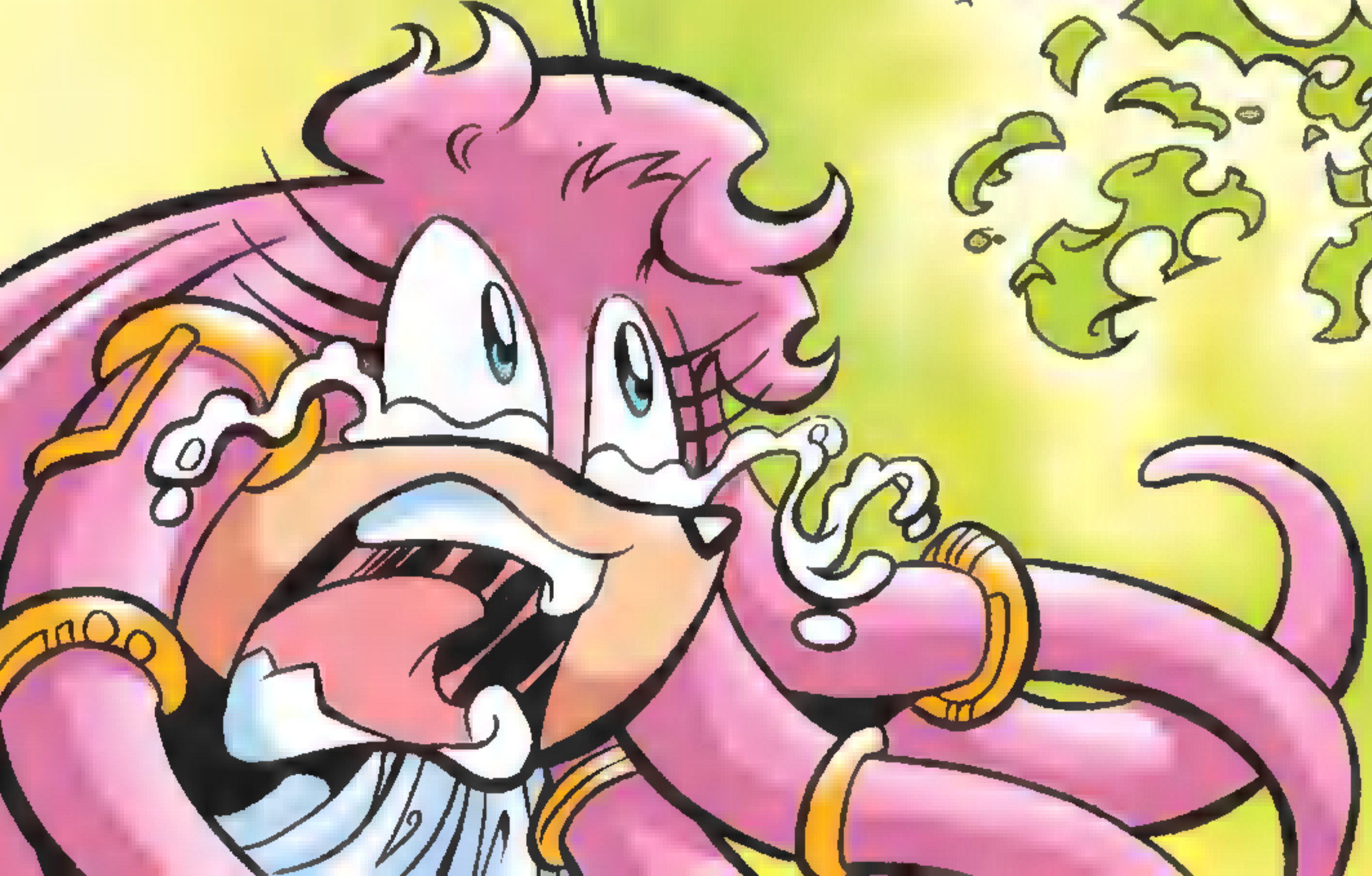
THE HARSH
DIMENSIONAL
BREACH IS
JUST ENOUGH...

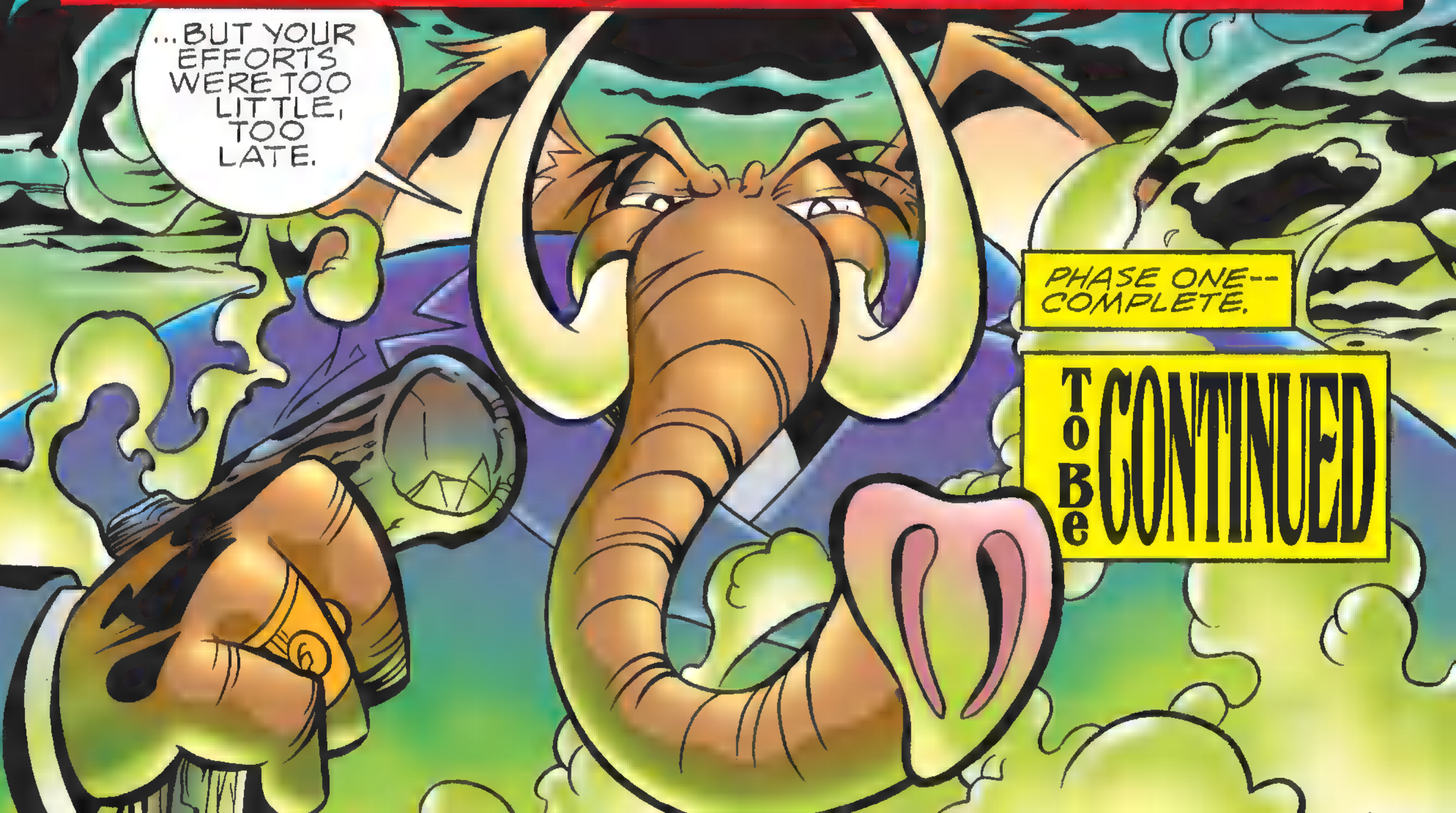


...TO PUSH THE
ANCIENT
WALKERS
PAST THEIR
LIMIT.

no!

FATES
PRESERVE
US...





SNIVELY KINTOBOR WAS ONCE DR. IVO "EGGMAN" ROBOTNIK'S CHIEF TOADY AND IS ONE OF HIS FEW REMAINING RELATIVES. THE OTHER, HOPE KINTOBOR, IS A YOUNG ORPHAN UNDER THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. NOW, LIKE HOPE, SNIVELY LIVES WITH SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS... BUT FOR HOW LONG?

TIES THAT BIND

WRITER
IAN FLYNN

PENCILS
TRACY YARDLEY!

INKS
JIM AMASH

COLORS
JEA RAY
LETTERS
TERESA DAVIDSON

WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
I DON'T BELONG WITH SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS...
...DO I?

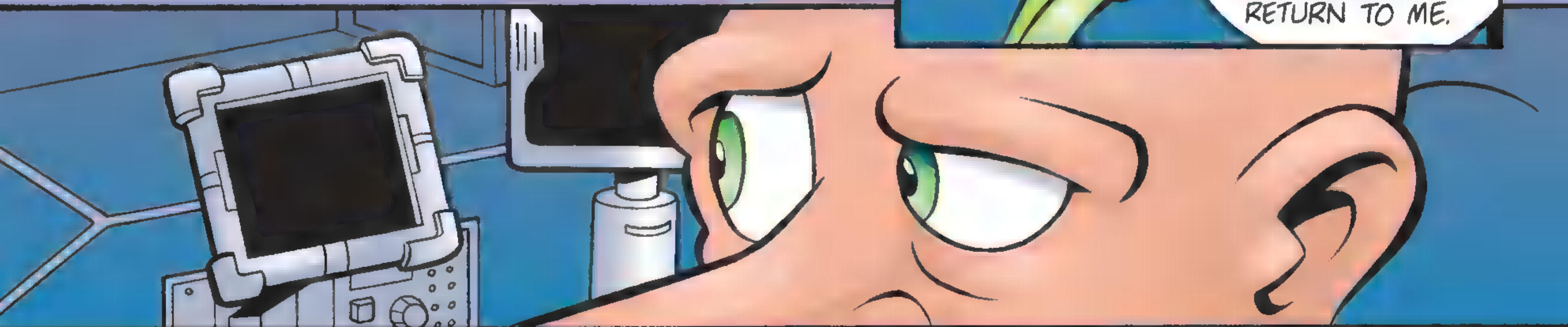
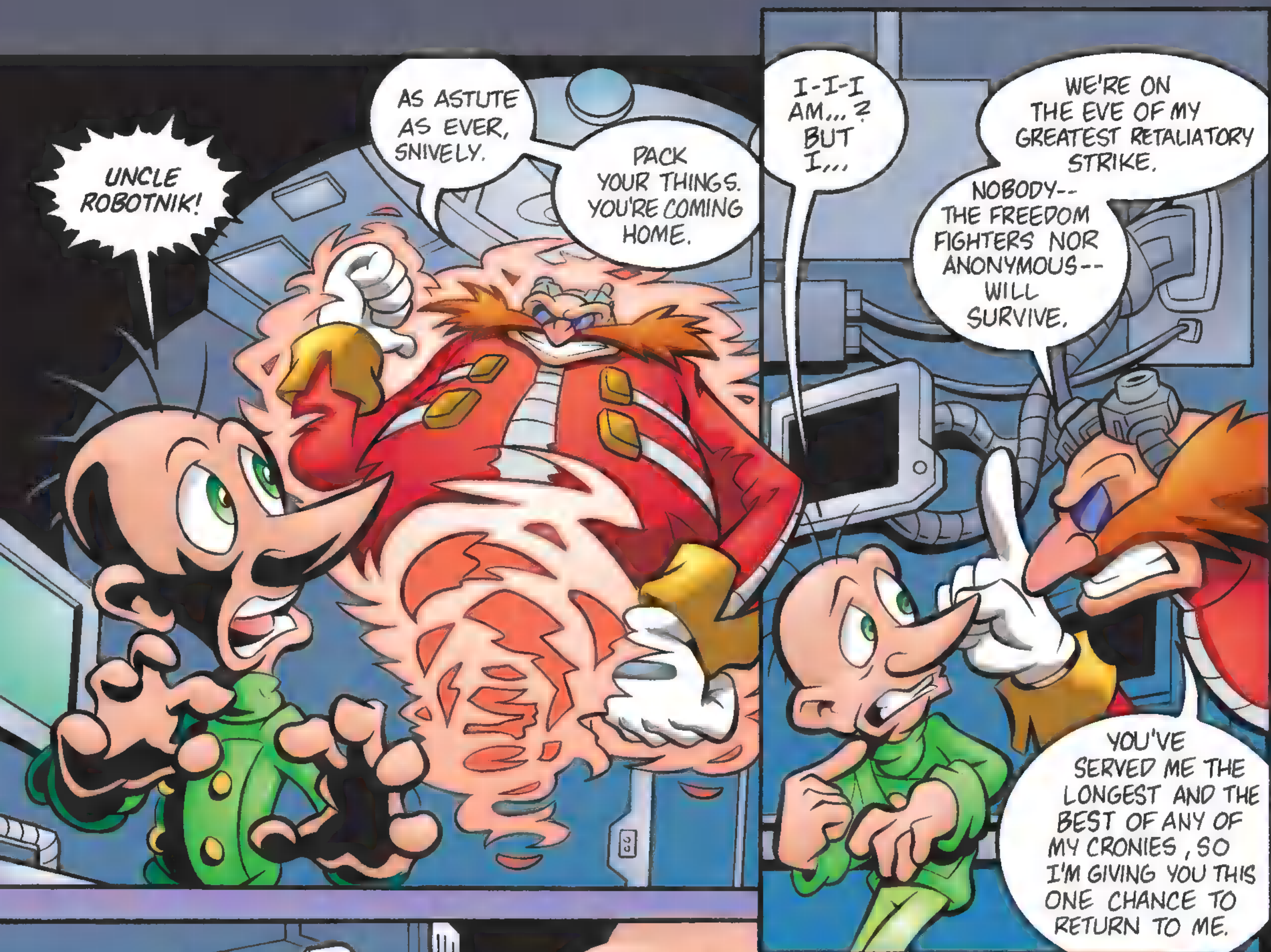
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN LEAGUE WITH SOME "VILLAINOUS" FORCE WHETHER I WAS A LACKEY OR THE LEADER. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AT ODDS WITH THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

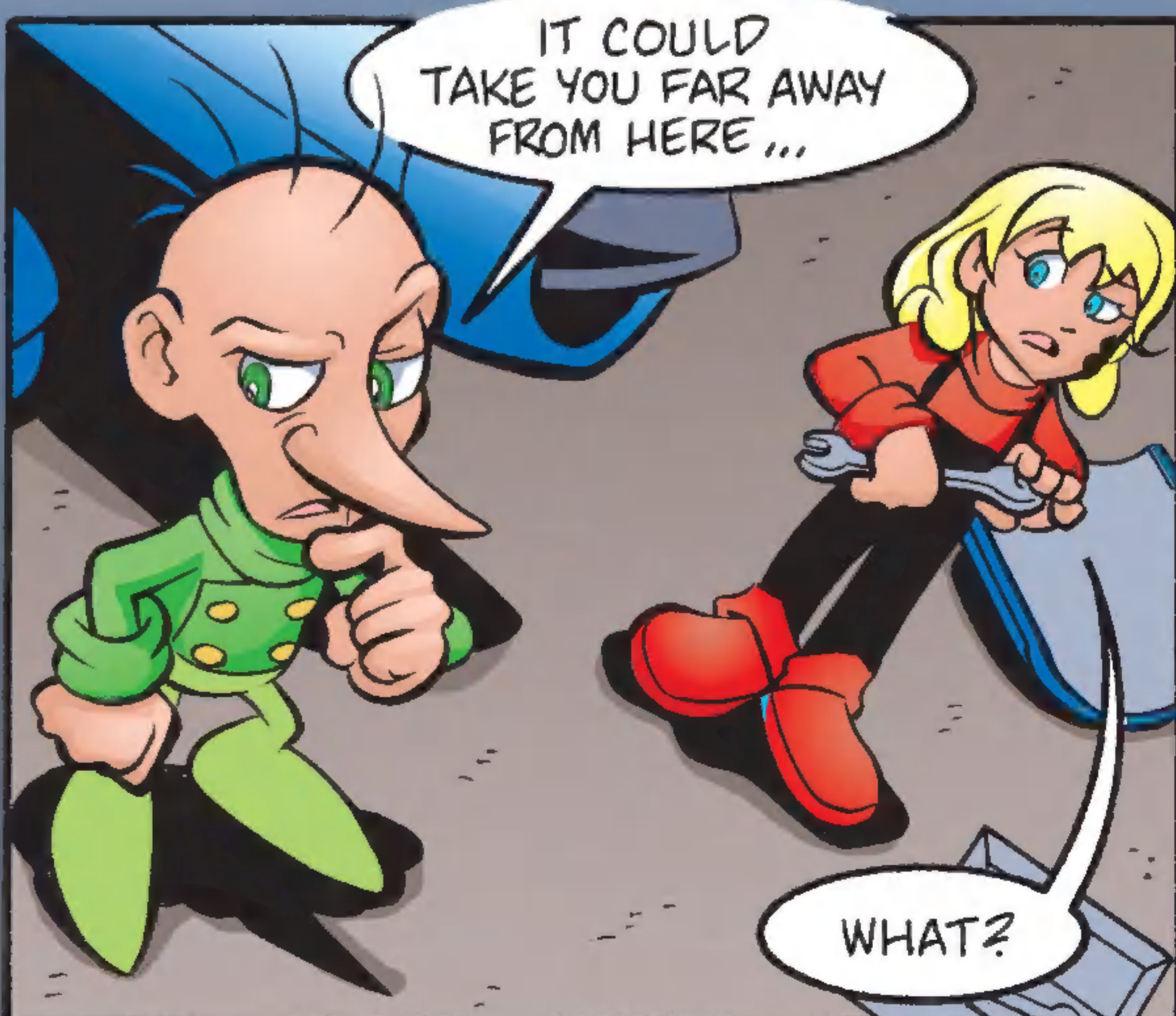
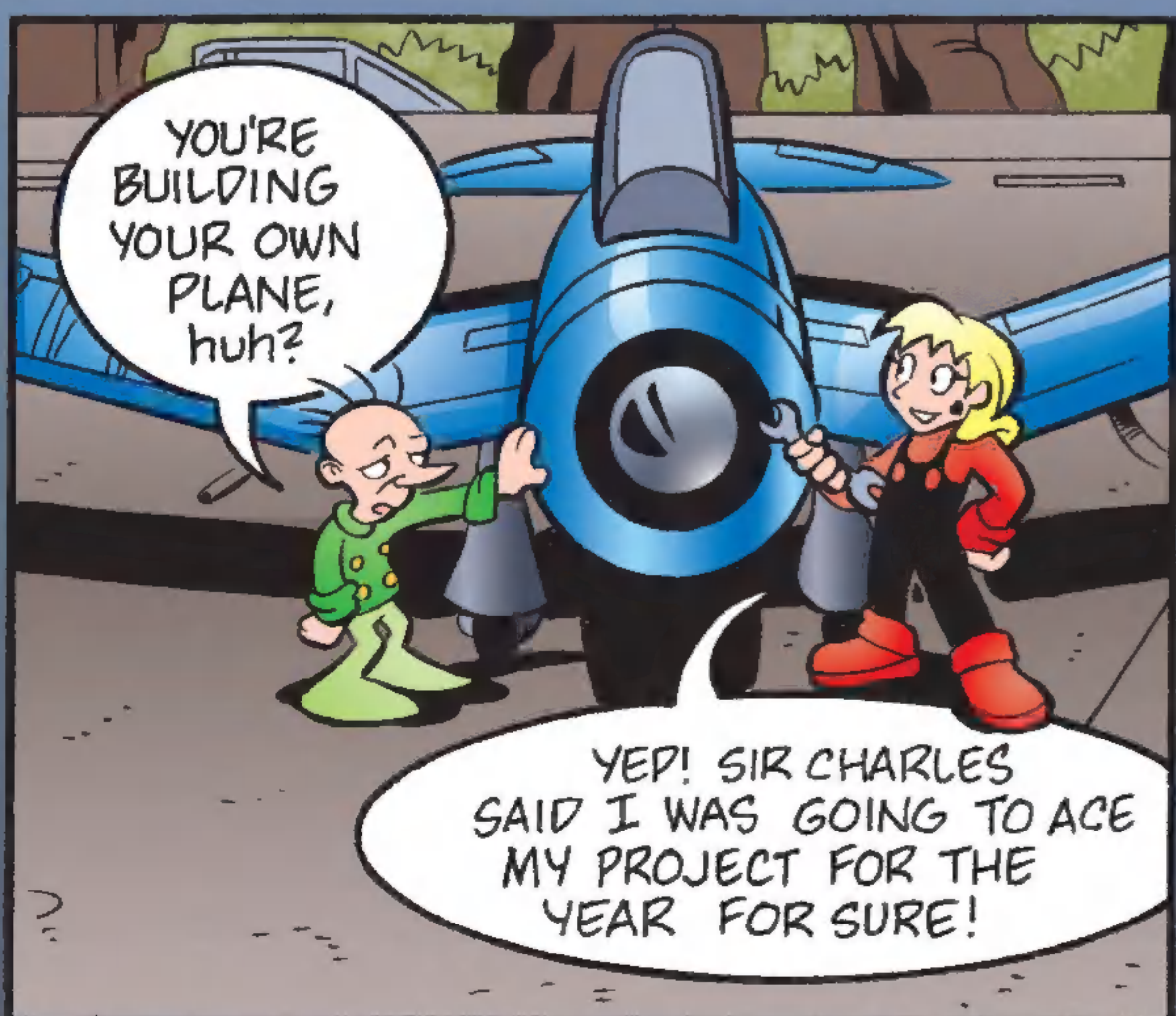
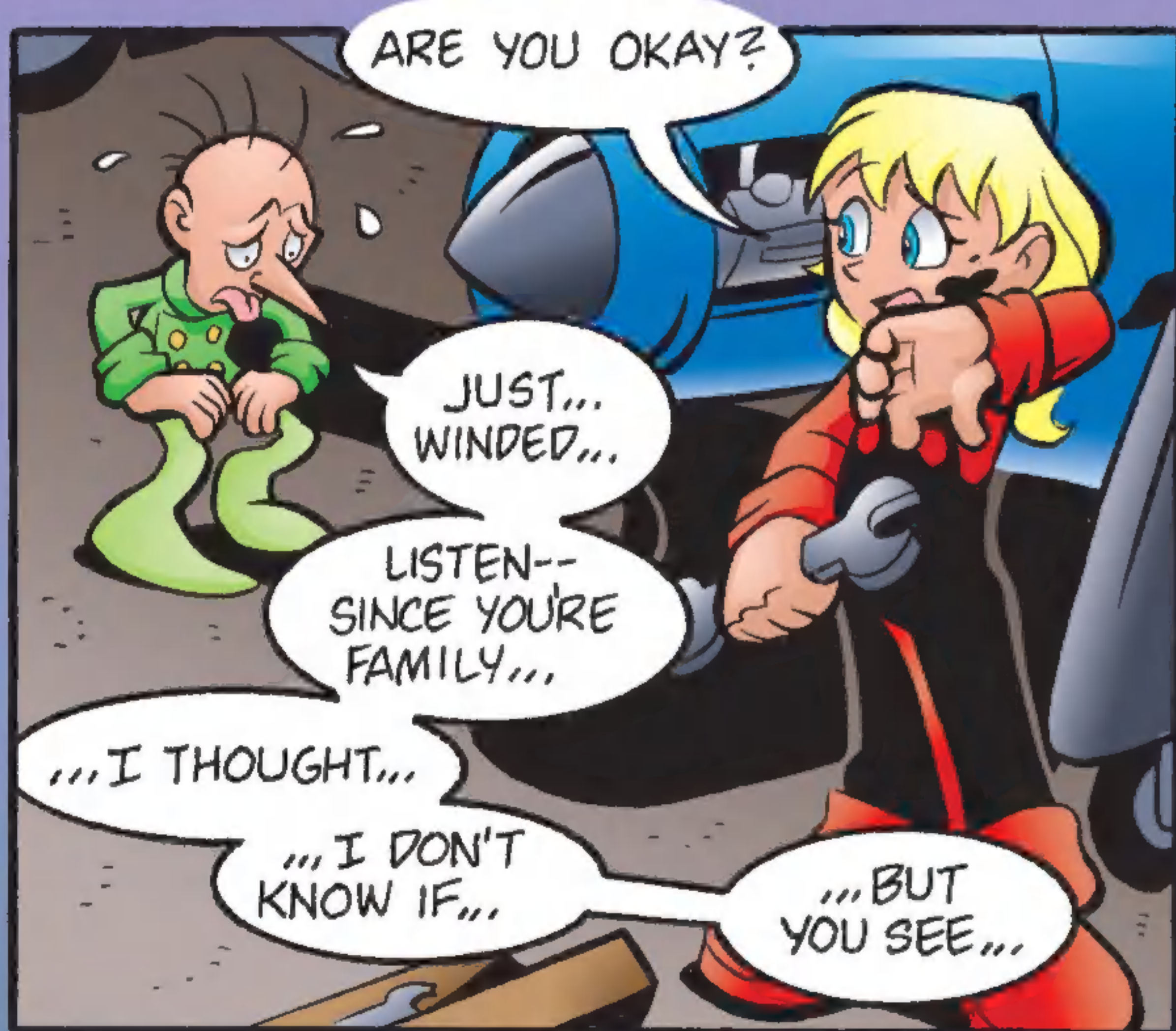
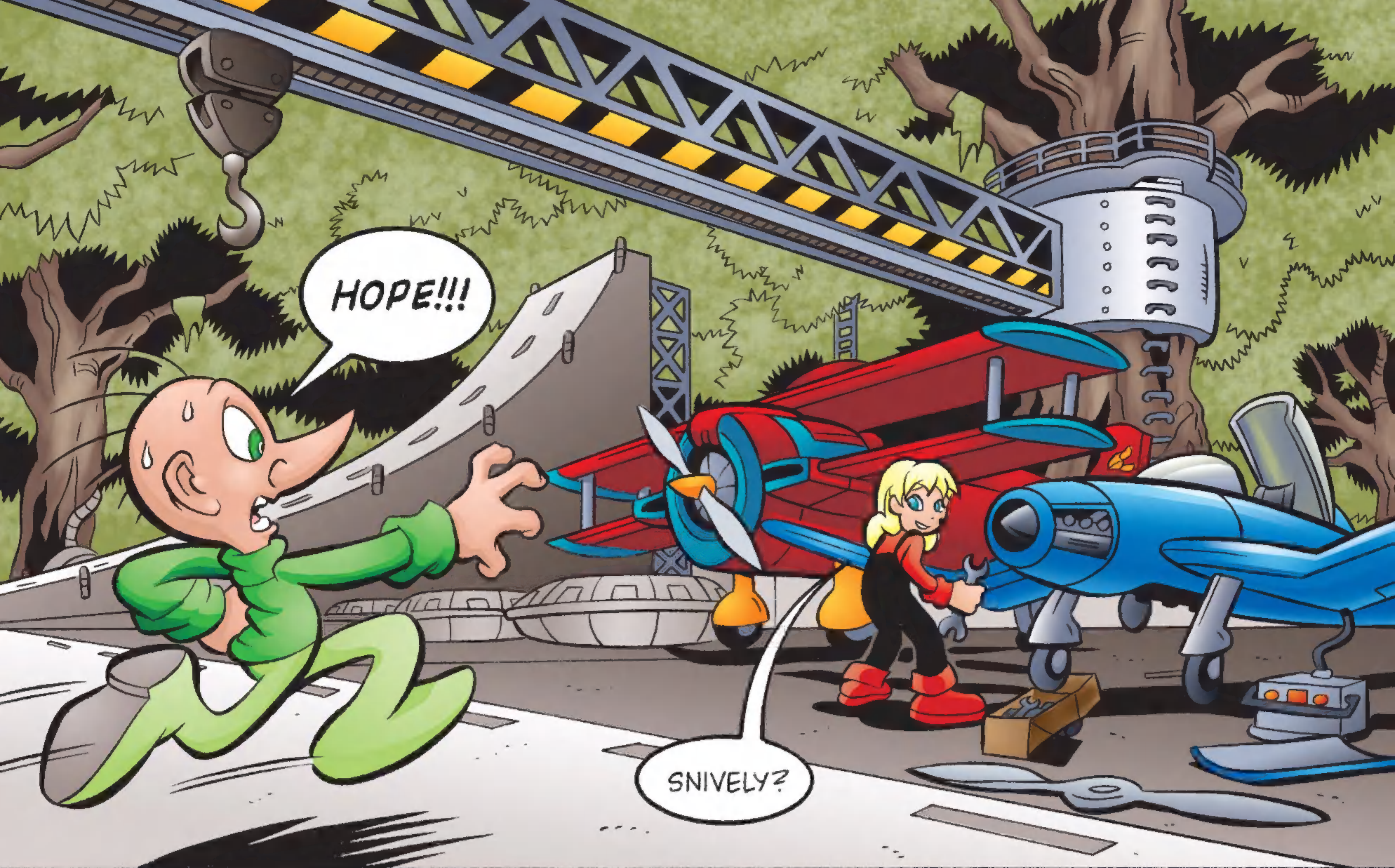
AND THEN THERE'S HOPE. ORPHANED--
--LEFT BEHIND BY HER PEOPLE--
--EVEN RELATED TO ME AND UNCLE ROBOTNIK.

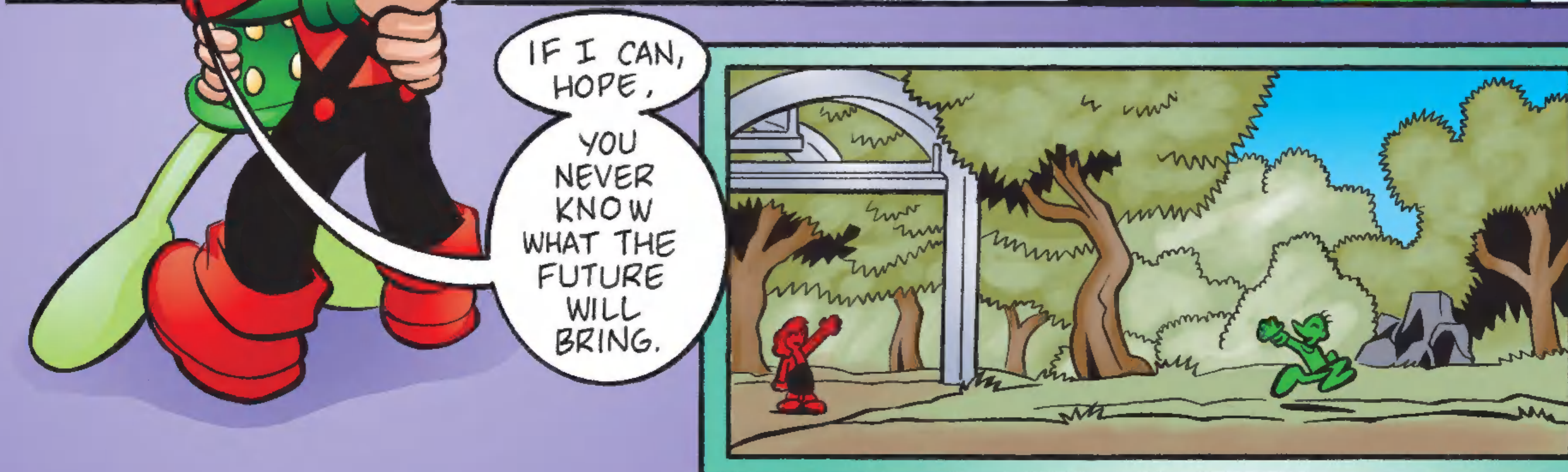
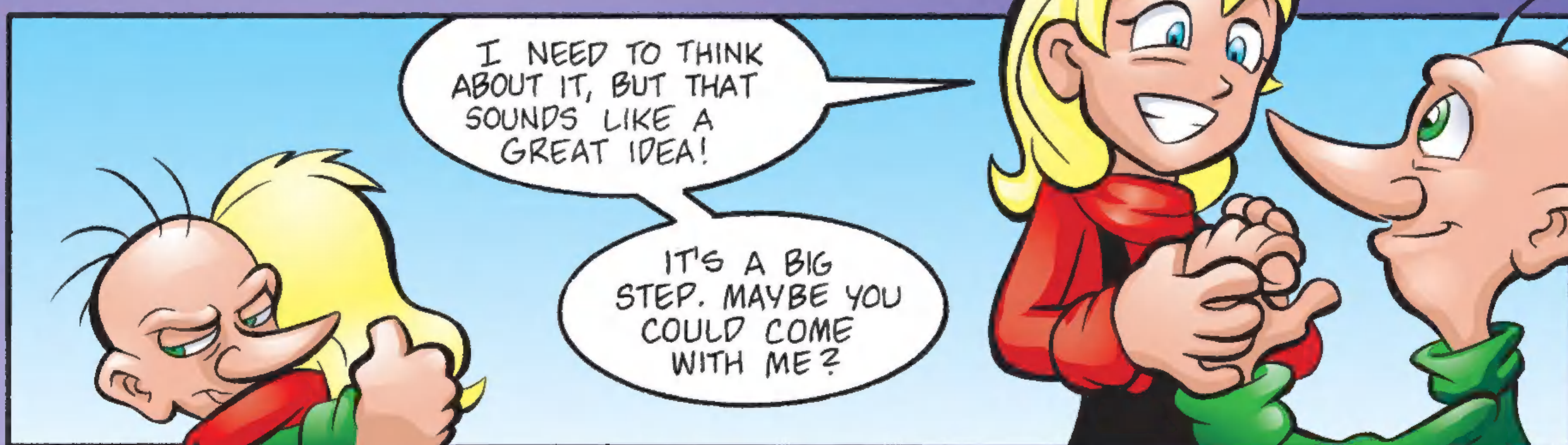
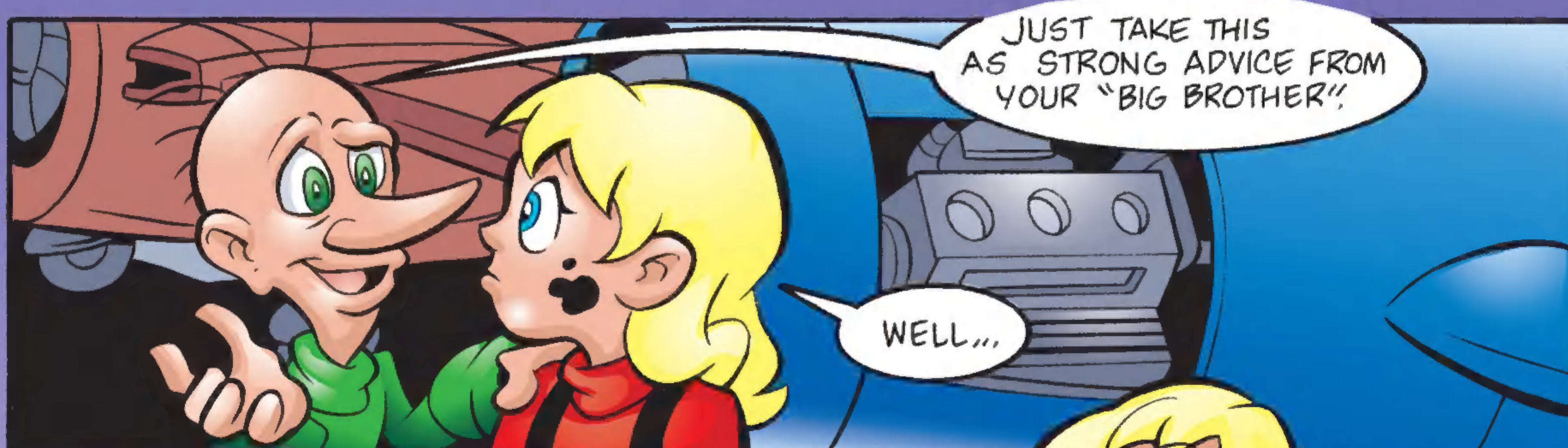
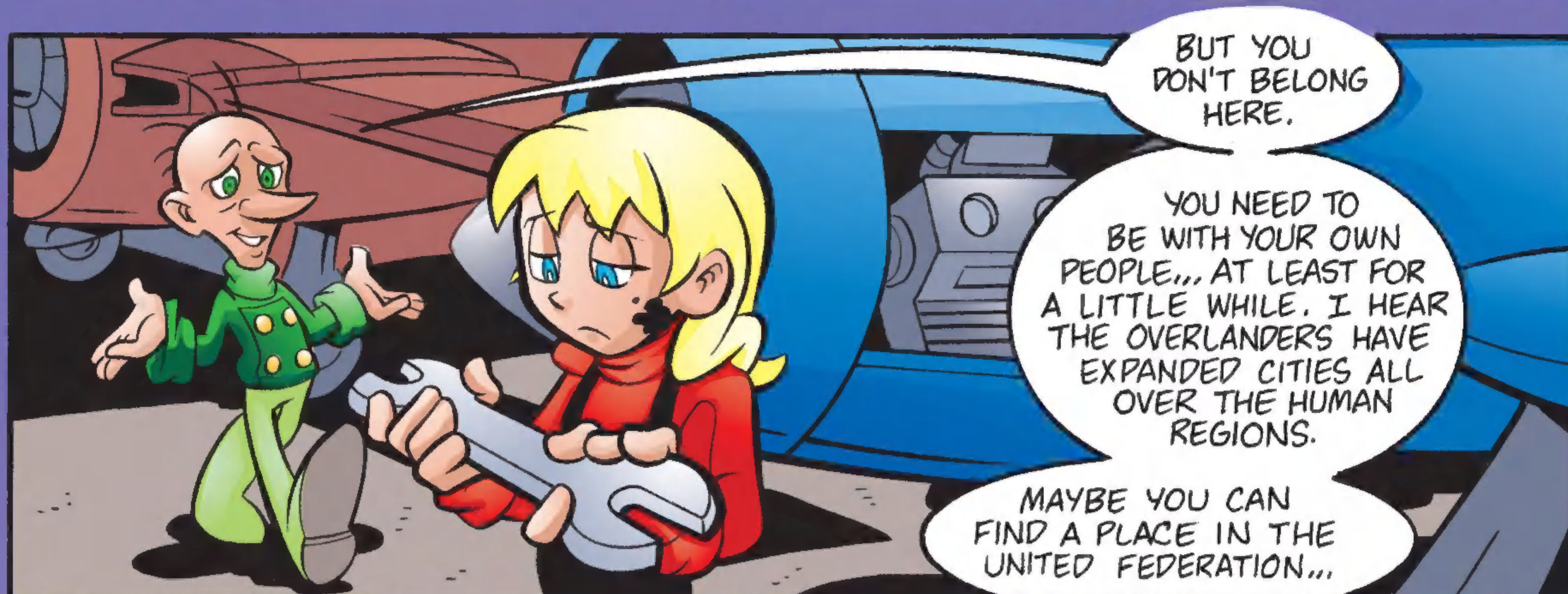
AND STILL SHE'S FOUND HER PLACE AMONG THESE ANIMALS AND IS HAPPY...

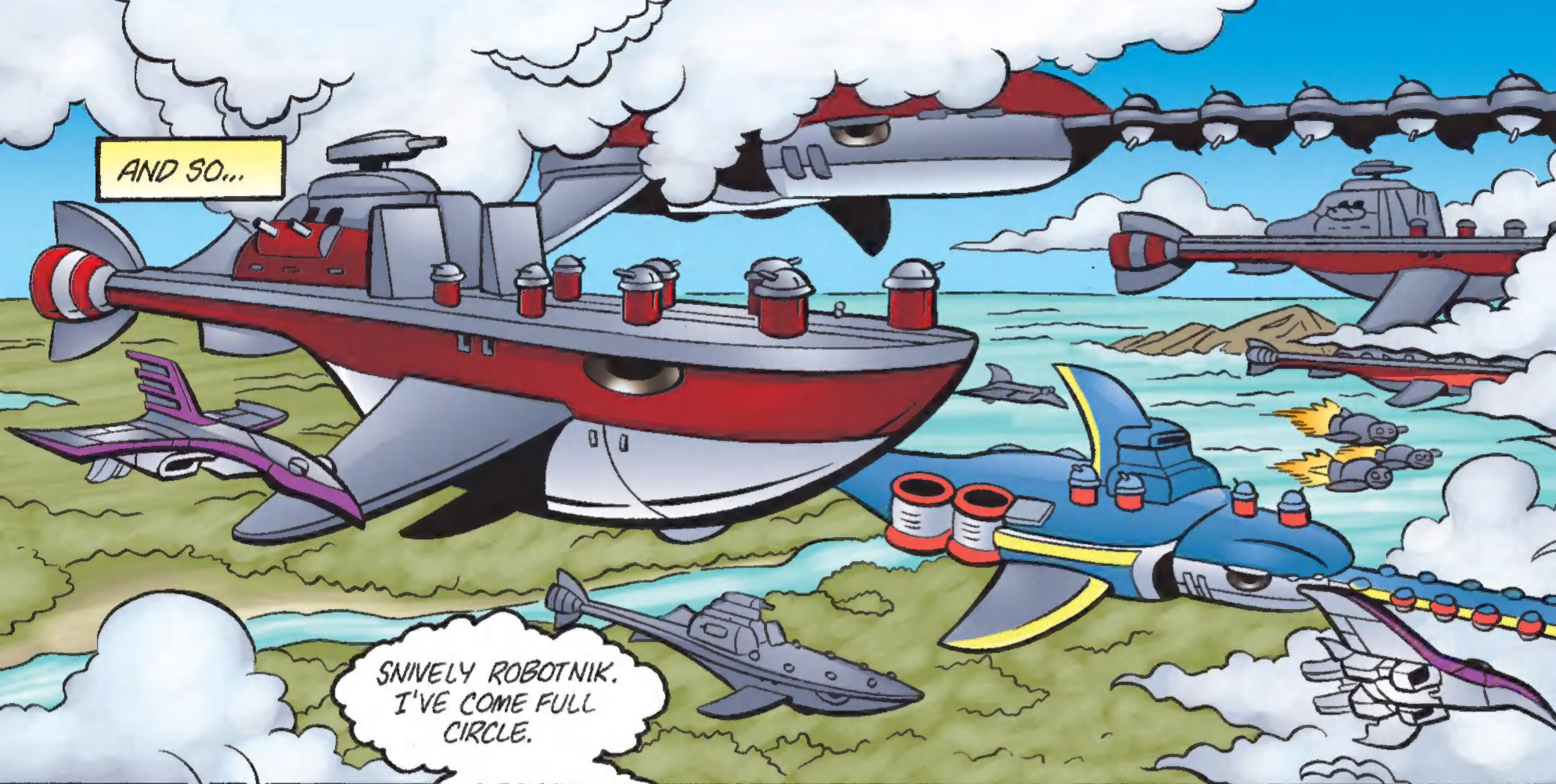
WHAT THE...?

BUMMMMMM...





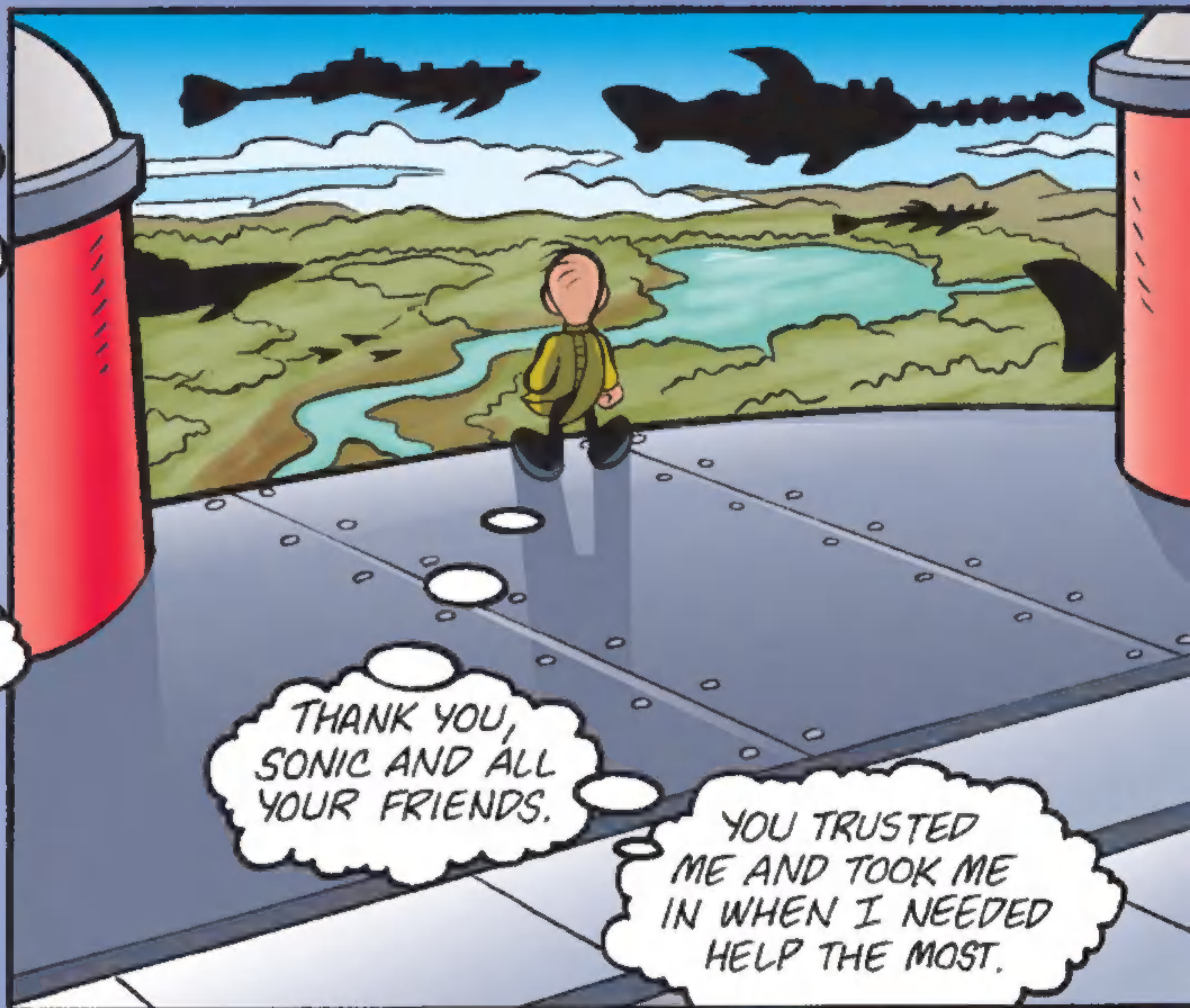




SNIVELY ROBOTNIK.
I'VE COME FULL
CIRCLE.

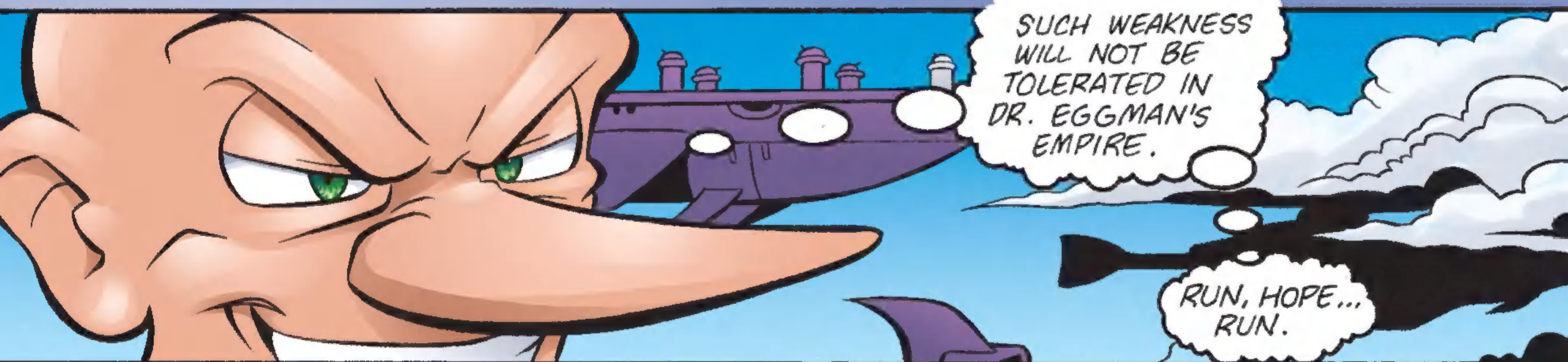
I BETRAYED
MY FAMILY TO
WORK WITH MY
UNCLE. I BETRAYED
THE MOBIANS TO
HELP MY UNCLE
CONQUER THE WORLD.
I BETRAYED MY
UNCLE TO TAKE
THE WORLD FROM
HIM AND TO SAVE
MY OWN STORE.

NOW I
BETRAY THE MOBIANS
AGAIN TO HELP
MY UNCLE.



THANK YOU,
SONIC AND ALL
YOUR FRIENDS.

YOU TRUSTED
ME AND TOOK ME
IN WHEN I NEEDED
HELP THE MOST.



SUCH WEAKNESS
WILL NOT BE
TOLERATED IN
DR. EGGMAN'S
EMPIRE.

RUN, HOPE...
RUN.

NEXT ISSUE THINGS REALLY HEAT UP FOR SONIC AND
THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS! DON'T MISS SONIC # 163
ON SALE JUNE

AND, JOIN SONIC'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY MAYHEM
IN SONIC X #10, ON SALE JUNE

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